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Weekly audited distribution (51 weeks) to 31/12/16 - 46,026 (GEM Series). Audited by David Pinder & Co Ltd. Chartered Accountants.
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THURSDAY APRIL 6TH, 2017

HAPPY EASTER
from High Street, Broad Street, Island Road and Market Street

Woodham Road Industrial Estate

Spring Cowbridge Feature

COWBRIDGE IS PLANNING FOR A 'RUNNING OF THE BULLS'

AT the first Bank Holiday Monday in May, Cowbridge Chamber of Trade (CoT) will be sponsoring a new event at the Lions' May Day Event in The Bear Field.

The race will be a cross between the two famous Spanish festivals – 'The Pamplona Bull Run' and the *La Tomatina* tomato-throwing festival.

A CoT spokeswoman said: "As an animal-friendly rural market town, no animals will be hurt in the running of this race.

"Instead, we are asking people to don there finest bull horns and come and race.

"There will be £100 first prize, £50 second and £25 third prize. There will also be a £25 prize for the best looking bull."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

GLAZE charity started by Cowbridge couple continues good work

A CHARITY founded in Cowbridge by the late Ray Murray, with his wife Lyn and a local consultant, Andy Thomas, has continued to grow.

Originally called 'GLAZE' and concentrating on benign prostate conditions, it expanded to become Prostate Cymru, which aims to fund treatments for all prostate problems, including cancer of the prostate.

A travelling fellowship was awarded to a Cardiff University School of Medicine student at Prostate Cymru's annual ambassadors' lunch recently.

Lyn Murray and Matt Murray, representing Ray Murray's family, presented the first travelling fellowship of £1,000 to Cardiff University medical student Isaac Myers.

Isaac, who is vice-president of Cardiff University's Oncology Society, will be furthering his knowledge of urology and cancer care at the Velindre Cancer Centre in Cardiff during his elective period.

Lyn Murray, who is a trustee of Prostate Cymru, said: "We were very proud, as a family, to award the first Ray Murray travelling fellowship to Isaac on behalf of Prostate Cymru.

"My late husband Ray founded the charity in 2003 with Andy Thomas to ensure Welsh men with prostate issues could have access to the best available treatments.

"Ray was very passionate about raising awareness of prostate issues and creating fundraising campaigns to support the charity and its objectives.

"He would be so impressed with how the charity has moved forward, in particular supporting students like Isaac and young people's interest in urology and prostate care."

In late 2016, Prostate Cymru introduced travelling fellowships to help medical students specialising in urology to fund their elective studies.

An 'elective' is a placement in which the student chooses the content and setting of their studies.

The Ray Murray and Ray Williams travelling fellowships were created to support students from Cardiff University and Swansea University respectively.

The fellowships are named in memory of Ray Murray, the founder of Prostate Cymru and Ray Williams, the founding chairman of the Pembrokeshire Friends of Prostate Cymru.

Further grants will be awarded later in the year to support more Cardiff and Swansea University students who are pursuing studies and a career in urology.

Prostate Cymru chief executive Tina Tew with Ray Murray Travelling Fellowship recipient Isaac Myers.

Health day this Saturday in the town hall

THIS Saturday, April 8, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions are hosting a health day in the town hall from 10am to 1pm.

Spokeswoman Liz Evans explained: "There will be diabetic screening, Welsh Hearts will be attending to help with CPR and defibrillator training.

"The Stroke Association will also be there, along with members of the new Vale Stroke Group to let people know that the group is doing.

"There will be teas and coffees, so please come along."

Liz also pointed out that in the morning the Lions will be holding a book sale outside Waitrose in the morning. Funds raised will go to a variety of causes including local ones.

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NSPCC CAMPAIGN PROTECTS CHILDREN

IT'S taken two years, but from April 3 the UK Government is finally enforcing a much-needed law that will make it illegal for adults to send sexual messages to children.

Incredibly, before this law was put into place, police couldn't arrest adults who groomed young people in Wales and England in this way and could only take action if they met a child.

Our NSPCC 'Flaw in the Law' campaign demanding this change gained widespread support when it was launched with more than 50,000 people calling for action. The Government passed the anti-grooming law in 2015, but it inexplicably sat on the statute books for two years without being enacted.

After continuous campaigning from all our supporters, the Secretary of State for Justice, Elizabeth Truss, has finally taken action and the flawed law is set to be fixed.

From April 3, any adult caught breaking the law will face up to two years in prison and be automatically placed on the sex offenders' register. The law will cover both online and offline communication, including social media, e-mail, and letters.

I'd like to take this opportunity to offer a big thank you to everyone who supported our 'Flaw in the Law' campaign over the last few years.

Your commitment and dedication has closed a legal loophole and helped protect a future generation of children from harm.

We know that the fight for safer childhoods is not over, but measures like these make a huge difference in our bid to protect children from all forms of abuse.

Des Mannion,
Head of NSPCC Cymru/Wales

Time to economise on the use of paper

We are being constantly warned of cutbacks, so why do the Vale Council and governments waste so much paper?

My wife and I recently received separately addressed two-page letters from both the Vale Council and from the Pension Service.

In all four cases, the information on the second page occupied less than half the sheet, so could easily have been printed on the back of the main sheet.

Looking back, I remember this has been the case over the several years we have dealt with these services; so, multiplying the amount by the huge number of people to whom these services have written, the amount saved could go so way to ease the shortages about which councils and government departments are complaining.

(Name and address supplied)

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- Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

CONCERNS FOR RESIDENTS NEAR THE DOCK AREA

I READ with interest the article in The GEM on March 30 in which the Vale Leader gave his views and advice on the imminent decision for a permit to allow the incinerator to begin operations on the docks.

I was left with a number of concerns that the Leader did not allay, including:

What is the possible impact on the future development of the docks area?

What is the possible impact on health issues in the town?

What is the possible impact on tourism?

How will the town's economy be impacted if the east and middle of the docks is blighted?

How will employment prospects be impacted when other industries do not take up developments on the east and middle of the docks?

Will the only future development on the docks be similar polluting development?

Will house prices be adversely affected, especially on the west docks area and Dock View Road?

The town has been making good progress over the last few years on a limited budget to improve its standing, but surely by introducing this type of industry into the heart of the town the Vale has set back the town's prospects considerably and has shown a callous disregard for the health and well-being of our community.

Dennis Clarke, Vale of Glamorgan.

Government support needed for autism charity

IT was announced last week that there will be an extra £7m of support given to increase Wales' autism services.

While I welcome more money for autism, I would be keen for some of it to be used to support an autism charity in Cardiff where I regularly attend, called Autism Spectrum Connections Cymru. I recently wrote to Rebecca Evans, Welsh Government Minister for Social Services and Public Health, to consider my proposal for providing funding to this charity.

Autism Spectrum Connections Cymru is a specialist centre that provides an open drop-in service for individuals living with autism in Cardiff and the surrounding area.

This drop-in service is unique, because it provides the facility for individuals living with autism to seek daily advice on issues that occur in every day life.

It provides the service users with post diagnostic support, employment workshops, work related support, one-to-one support, social groups for those who seek new friendships as well as many more issues.

This service is invaluable. It has become a very important part of my life and for many others who also regularly use the service.

The Welsh Government replied to me and I received what was, in my opinion, a very generic response which only raised further questions. As a result, I've launched an online petition calling for the Welsh Government to give funding to this charity.

We wish to seek reassurance that this charity will always remain open and fully funded, which is the key message in this petition. This petition already has over 100 signatures.

The petition can be found at *https://www.change.org/p/welsh-assembly-government-demand-funding-from-the-welsh-government-to-support-autism-spectrum-connections-cymru?recruiter=377511476&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=share_for_starters_page&utm_term=des-lg-no_src-no_msg*".

Aled Thomas, Penarth.

Boy racers endanger lives on Eglwys Brewis

WHAT has happened to Eglwys Brewis? Please report any boy racers on the estate, it's only a matter of time before a child is knocked down!

This was a lovely estate years ago, but not anymore. It's the same people who drive fast around the estate, and need to be reported to local police.

I was looking out the window on Friday and there was a man riding around on a loud motorbike with no helmet and a young child sitting in front of him, this went on for about an hour, no police to be seen!

One man drives into the estate at such speed that I'm afraid what might happen if a child steps out.

We need speed ramps around this estate to stop the chosen few that spoil it for others.

The good residents of Eglwys Brewis should keep an eye out for the boy racers and the loud music that is played at all hours from cars. Take the registration number and report it to local police, you don't even have to give your name.

It's the only way these idiots are kept under control and all the decent people can benefit too!

(Name and address supplied).

QUESTIONS OVER BIOMASS PLANT

"*NO need for an Environmental Assessment*", that was the answer from the Vale Council, as reported on BBC Wales Today – so our council are not interested in the environmental effects of the Biomass plant currently under construction on Barry Docks?

Why was that? Was it because the company told them it is 'clean technology'? Was it because of the cost of commissioning such an assessment?

Was it because we already suffer fallout from Dow and Aberthaw (power station and cement works) so we won't notice a little more? Or was it because "it's only Barry"

I was at an extraordinary meeting of the Barry Town Council and it was evident that among the Labour town councillors present, there were some who also sit on the Vale Council – and who voted in favour of the Biomass plant.

The Town Council meeting voted unanimously in favour of setting a budget of £10,000 for the purposes of commissioning expert opinion in cases such as this, so in effect some councillors were voting against themselves!

I must commend the Town Council for finding the funds and having the courage to carry out work the Vale should have done.

Andy Griffiths
Independent candidate for Court Ward, Barry)

'Tank tracks better than Llandow road'

WHAT an excellent letter from Chris Coade (The GEM, March 23) with regard to the recycling centre at Llandow.

The road has deteriorated to such an extent that I have seen tank tracks on Salisbury Plain in better condition.

I went recently from Llantwit Major to the recycling centre in Sully – a round trip of 30 miles – to dispose of my excess rubbish, but necessary, if it is to be done properly and safely.

The plus side is that you can call into Morrisons in Barry on the way back for a coffee and doughnut. No doubt someone on the council will wake up to the problem someday

David Satherley, Llantwit Major.

COUNCIL TAX BILLS INCREASE

LAST week, Labour councillors voted for yet another council tax rise in April, which will see residents' bills rising once again.

Since 2012, the Labour-run Vale of Glamorgan Council has cost the average Barry household £585 in cumulative council tax hikes.

If that wasn't bad enough, bus services remain in decline and we have yet to receive assurances from the council that they won't move towards monthly bin collections here, as they have in many other Labour councils across Wales. Inflation has been at around zero per cent, so it's pretty hard to justify being forced to pay more every year.

We need a council that can achieve more for Barry residents without passing on the bill to the taxpayer. Five more years with Labour in charge would hit residents in the pocket.

If we are fortunate enough to be elected you can rest assured that we would join Conservative colleagues in fighting tooth and nail to keep council tax bills down!

Vincent Bailey and Leighton Rowlands,
Conservative candidates for Dyfan ward.

Balancing gripes on Britain's NHS

I write to express my gratitude for the care I received at the Princess of Wales Hospital last Saturday morning; it was excellent!

I hope this note may balance many of the 'gripes' that the press receive and publish!

Thank you to the staff – I award five stars!

John A Morgan, St Athan.

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Published by: Glamorgan GEM Ltd., Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge. CF71 7EL. Printed by TMP, Cardiff CF24 5HJ

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Cowbridge catwalk where fashion doesn't cost a lot

There was a supportive audience at the show.

COWBRIDGE Cubs have been very busy this term: we have been cooking, learning about health and safety, been on a lovely walk and many more things.

Lots more next term to look forward to.

On March 21 we had three new leaders invested: Annie, Nick and Jon. We are so pleased that they have joined our team.

If anyone would like to know about Scouting, please come to the Scout hut on a Tuesday evening between 5.45pm and 9.15pm. We are always looking for new people to join us.

Fashion Show

Cowbridge Scout group had a fashion show on March 31 at Costa. We had Samantha B of Ewenny and Fatface to show their wonderful clothes. We would like to say a big thank you to the both of them for supporting us.

We would like to say thank you to Jen for all her hard work on the night, and to Costa for letting us use the premises.

The models for Fatface were Megahan, Menna, Charlie, Issac and Gethin. The models for Samantha B were Ceri, Deborah, Carol and Jean.

We would like to say thank you to Fatface, Clarks' Pies, The Shop, Gail Armitage flower shop, Cardiff, Eluned, Mary, Sarah, and Brenda for all the great raffle prizes. We all had a great evening and would like to say thank you to all who support Scouting.

Christine Mallett
Cowbridge Cub Leader

Paddington would approve

VAL CHARLES of Cowbridge won first prize at the 2017 Marmalade Awards in Cumbria, where there were entries from more than 30 countries including Lebanon, Australia, Columbia, Japan, USA and Singapore.

These were the 12th annual awards sponsored by Mackays of Dundee, Tate and Lyle and Fortnum and Mason. Nearly £200,000 has been raised for Hospice At Home.

Val's jar of marmalade won the campanologist's category of the amateur section. She was keen member of the handbell team and her husband Alf rang the big bells in three towers for many years. Other categories include gardeners, octogenarians, first timers and children.

You don't have to be a campanologist to enter the competition, although we'd love to have you if you would like to learn to ring handbells or tower bells; Call 01446 773049 or see nictreharne @gmail.com.

NT (Secretary of Cowbridge Bellringers)

Val Charles with her winning marmalade

Porthcawl artist's triumph at the Cowbridge Art Society competition

From left: Bee Lilli and Heather Parnell.

ON March 30 Cowbridge Art Society held its annual competition for members.

From a very strong collection of around 40 artworks in numerous media, the winner was Porthcawl artist, retired psychotherapist Bee Lilli with her painting 'Locks Common to Sker House and the Steelworks'.

Bee paints mostly in acrylics on large canvases but also experiments with other media and techniques.

She has exhibited at Nolton Gallery, Bridgend, Llanover Hall, The Synnedd, Bute Street Gallery, Off the Wall Gallery Llandaf, Castell Coch and many others. She has sold work internationally and has also had paintings shortlisted for the Royal West Academy open show. The competition and critique were adjudicated by art lecturer and curator Heather Parnell.

The society welcomes artists of any level, and also non artists who would like to see demonstrations of various art techniques or attend illustrated lectures on Art topics. We meet on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm – 9 pm) and occasional visitors and new members are most welcome.

For details of the society's programme and activities see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com and www.facebook.com/cowbridgeart.cas/?ref=bookmarks.

Martyn Crocker factory manager at Wilcare Group (left) with Ben Bundock of Biosol Renewables UK Ltd which installed the new system.

Factory's state-of-the-art energy system 'saves thousands'

COWBRIDGE furniture manufacturer Wilcare Group has invested £250,000 in a biomass plant system that will provide enough energy for its site to become self-sufficient.

The Wilcare Group has been designing and producing rise and recline furniture at its Cowbridge factory for over 15 years and established its accentu8 brand of luxury chairs in 2014, designed by consultant creative designer Angela Gidden.

The installation of the Froling wood chip boiler, state-of-the-art biomass heating system was designed to provide a single source of heating to its 36,000 square foot factory, saving the business £20,000 a year.

Martyn Crocker, factory manager at Wilcare Group, said: "We invested a quarter of a million pounds into this latest technology enabling us to become self-sufficient and heat our large factory and offices while reducing our carbon footprint further, which is really important to us.

"Due to the nature of our business, we have easy access to timber off-cuts from making our chairs so the wood is placed in the chipper and then placed in the wood chip boiler, converting waste into energy. This, together with the feed from our wood dust extraction system, is enough to provide plenty of heating and hot water for our 40 employees, making us a substantial saving."

The Froling wood chip boiler was installed by Biosol Renewables UK LTD based in Llanelli, designers of bespoke solar panel systems and suppliers of biomass boilers.

Cowbridge school pupils give Marie Curie a boost

Three public spirited senior students of Cowbridge Comprehensive School stood for hours on the High Street to help with the collection for the Marie Curie Hospice in Penarth. Freya Yates, Tara Grout-Wassink and Louis Connolly are shown with the collection organiser Mrs Mary Roberts.

CHAMBER OF TRADE HOST 'QUIZ NIGHT'

The 'well-laden' runners-up.

Winners 'The Dysfunctionals' with Jack and Simon from the Elephant and Bun.

MORE than 100 Cowbridge traders and their friends took part in the inaugural Chamber of Trade quiz at Cowbridge Rugby Club.

Hosted and set by the Elephant and Bun deli father and son, Simon and Jack Farrington, the quiz raised £550 towards the new Christmas lights that will hopefully light up Cowbridge town centre this festive season.

Of the 19 teams that took part, the Dysfunktionals emerged winners and took the trophy plus wine! The Vale team (led by Chamber of Trade chairman Alun John) and HRT shared second place.

Elephant & Bun director Simon Farrington said: "We were delighted with the support from the town traders and hopefully everybody had a good time and will be up for a repeat brain teasing either later in the year or early in 2018.

"As High Street traders we are all feeling the effects of corrosive business rates increases but we have to look forward positively.

"A more festive look to the town's High Street will hopefully bring more local people and visitors into town this coming Christmas."

Cowbridge Traders No 41 team.

HRT Estate Agents' team.

Running of the bulls!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The spokesman continued: "The event is open to anyone 14 or over. We can't make it too easy, so there will be obstacles on the route which will run around The Bear Field.

"Hopefully some of the local children will be willing to help with the tomato throwing. So come and join the fun. There is no entry fee and the race starts at 4pm.

"Why not represent your local club and try and win the money for them? We hope all local clubs, from the cricket to the rugby to the pony club will put at least one member forward and make it a real community event.

Clare's Irish ride tops £1,000

AS reported in previous editions of The GEM, Clare Ingram of Llantwit Major is embarking on an epic north-to-south fundraising bicycle ride in the Republic of Ireland.

Just last week, Clare, also part of the town's revamped Chamber of Trade, broke the £1,000 landmark – before even pedalling a mile in the Emerald Isle.

"Training is going well," began Clare. "I have now completed my first 15 miles in a single hour last week, and the £1,000 raised so far on my Just Giving page is wonderful.

"It's so very kind of everyone."

Clare has taken on the 437-mile challenge in memory of her late husband, and all funds raised will go to Marie Curie.

Clare pointed out that tickets remain available for a fund-raising concert on April 8 at Llantwit Major Rugby Club with music by local popular beat combo Rock'n'Soul.

Tickets for the concert, which starts at 7.30pm, are £10 each, and include light refreshments.

For more information, contact Clare on 07947 406404.

The ride begins in June, and donations can be made by visiting *www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Clare-Ingram2*.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Local Concern

THE meeting which took place in the Llangan community hall on Tuesday evening, March 28 was well attended with residents from Llangan and St Mary Hill, who voiced their concern over the Vale Council's consideration of increasing the number of traveller families at Elasto lane, Llangan.

For the past 20 years, this site has been occupied by one family. During these years, the people of Llangan have had no problems, including myself, and I live just 150 metres from the site.

I am of course extremely concerned if the site is extended again, with the high cost involved, also due to the unsuitability of the site; there is a limited bus service between Cowbridge and Bridgend for shopping and doctor surgeries and I doubt if Llangan Primary School could accommodate the influx of many more children.

I sincerely hope the Vale Council will consider these points when deciding the fate of the Elasto Lane site.

News from Llangan School

ON Monday, April 3 the younger children were having an Easter Bonnet parade. Today, April 6 the school's Easter raffle is taking place.

A big thank you to the parents and local businesses for supporting the school with donations of Easter eggs.

St Mary Hill Church

THE annual Easter Day service will take place on Sunday, April 16 at 7.30am.

It will be a Eucharist service, followed by breakfast. There will be a warm welcome for everyone wishing to attend.

St Canna's, Llangan

ON April 9 (Palm Sunday) a Eucharist service will be held at 11.15am.
On April 16 (Easter Day) Eucharist service at 11.15am.

Saron Chapel, Treoes

THE service on Sunday, April 2 was very well attended by the local community; the service was conducted by Mrs Daphne Parker.

Children are keen to be part of the St James' Church project.

Pupils make video report on church repairs

CHILDREN from Wick and Marcross Church in Wales Primary School are providing the introduction to a new website being launched by St James' Church in Wick.

Repairs to the church roof will go ahead this summer and work on the walls and tower will take place during 2018. The children will be reporting on progress; see *www.wickchurch. wales*.

Ceri Thomas, headteacher at the school, is enthusiastic about the project. She said: "The church is very important to us. There is going to be a lot of activity over the next two years and the children are keen to be part of the project".

Work on the roof is being supported by grants from the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund and the National Churches Trust, but the grants do not cover the full cost of the work.

St Hilary WI news

THE March meeting of St Hilary WI was held in the village hall on March 14.

President Betty Thomas thanked Caroline Neudegg for the green hearts she and her friends had made for members to bring awareness of 'climate change'.

In addition, Betty brought members' attention to the approaching 90th birthday of Olive Lewis. Molly Ranger also celebrated her 90th birthday late last year; it would appear that the St Hilary WI has a history of longevity!

The institute celebrated its 85th birthday in February and it was decided to mark the occasion with lunch at The Six Bells Inn, Penmark on April 12.

This month's speaker was Gwerfyl Gardner, with a talk entitled 'Adventures in Quizland.' Mrs Gardner was a member of the Glamorgan WI team, the Glamorgan Poppies, who beat the Eggheads in 2010. She started her quizzing career in 1953 as the youngest member of a 1953 winning team from Bangor Grammar School for Girls on 'Top of the Form'.

She revived her enthusiasm for quizzing after she retired from her teaching career. Since then, she has taken part in many well known TV quizzes such as '15 to 1', 'The Chase' and 'The Weakest Link'.

She finished her presentation with an impromptu mini quiz with six members participating. This, apart from being very entertaining, showed how much easier it is to answer from the audience than when put on the spot.

The evening finished with refreshments provided by Jenny Hughes and Sian Deal.

The next meeting will be held in the village hall at 7pm on Tuesday, April 11.

SD

Village hall seeks honorary secretary

WICK and Monknash Village Hall urgently require an honorary secretary to take up the post at the AGM in June.

If you think you can contribute to the running of the village hall, please apply to Ben Wooding (honorary chairman) on 01656 890237 as soon as possible.

Wick and Monknash Village Hall is very busy, with numerous activities taking place each week.

It is a self-funding charitable organisation run by trustees who are very proud of their hall. The position will become vacant because of the retirement of the present honorary secretary.

GlastonBARRY'S 'Big Top' tribute selling out fast!

by TIM CHAPMAN
If you have a story, please email: editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk; or call 01446 774484

Mack Events are getting the UK's top tribute bands to Barry, including eleven piece band – 'The Stevie Wonder Experience'

GLASTONBARRY, the town's nationally famous tribute festival, will have a 4,000 capacity 'big top arena' this July.

People travel from as far away as America, New Zealand and parts of Europe to sample the wonderful atmosphere at one of the UK's most popular rock shows.

This year's event takes place at Romilly Park on Saturday, July 29 and Sunday, July 30.

Ross Mackintosh of Mack Events told The GEM: "After announcing the line up for GlastonBARRY Tribute Festival only last month, we have amazingly sold out of the VIP tickets and already sold thousands of 'early bird' weekend discount tickets. We are well on our way to a record sell-out."

He said people keen to attend shouldn't leave it until the last moment to get a ticket otherwise they might miss out.

Matt Blumberg, also of Mack Events, emphasised that the festival was more ambitious than ever.

"The great news is this year we have a huge 4,000 capacity circus big top arena to house everyone, so whatever the weather everyone is covered.

"We have two stages – a main one and an outside stage as well, a huge selection of food vendors and of course a bar.

"One of the reasons why GlastonBARRY is so popular is how reasonably priced we are. We have done a lot of research and we haven't come across anyone on the UK scene who can match what we are doing."

This year's line-up includes Prince tribute band – 'Purple Rain'; David Bowie tribute – 'Absolute Bowie'; Oasis tribute – 'Oasish'; UB40 tribute – 'Johnny2Bad'; ACDC tribute – 'ACDC UK'; Kings of Leon tribute – 'The Four Kicks'; The Jam tribute 'The Jamd'; Stereophonics tribute – 'Stereotonics'; Bryan Adams tribute – 'The Bryan Adams Effect'; The Verve tribute – 'Verve UK'; and a Ska tribute to be confirmed.

Back by popular demand from London's West End will be 'The Valli Boys', as well as some popular local cover bands and special guests.

For ticket information, go to www.glastonbarry.com; or call the Box Office at 01446 737339; tickets are also available at The Piccolo Bar, Barry Island.

GlastonBARRY'S 'Big Top'.

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

The Big Spring Event
Half Price
plus
EXTRA DISCOUNTS
OFF ALL SALE PRICES
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Make sure you get down to our superstore early to take advantage of EXTRA DISCOUNTS off ALL SALE PRICES. But hurry EXTRA DISCOUNTS are *now in the final week.*
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CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Relatives could not pay for a funeral after carer stole from elderly man

A CARER who systematically stole more than £8,000 from two elderly men he was entrusted to look after has been jailed for 10 months at Cardiff Crown Court.

The grief-stricken relatives of one of the victims were left devastated when they found they could not pay for his funeral after £6,600 had been taken from his bank account.

Richard Riordan (31) of Teilo's Drive, Brackla, Bridgend, admitted two charges of theft.

Prosecutor John Warren said Riordan worked for Gabriel's Care of Barry and systematically stole money from two vulnerable clients.

One, Christopher Williams (78), who had a degree of palsy, speech difficulties and limited mobility, had a support worker who looked at his bank statements and saw that large amounts of cash had been taken from him.

The bank had also texted Mr Williams indicating that there had been suspicious transactions.

Enquiries were made and Riordan was suspended.

Mr Williams said that no-one had permission to take money.

It was believed, said Mr Warren, that Riordan had viewed and memorised Mr William's bank card PIN and this had been the catalyst for eight or nine transactions involving a loss of £1,790.

Police made further enquiries which led them to Mr Brian Murray, who died last July aged 66.

"He was an amputee," said Mr Warren, "and used a wheelchair. Riordan was his principal carer and the two got on extremely well."

In December 2015, Riordan offered to do his shopping and Mr Murray gave him his bank card.

The police later examined his bank account and found that Riordan had made a number of transactions resulting in the loss to Mr Murray of £6,621.

When Riordan was arrested, he admitted stealing from Mr Murray, but denied stealing from Mr Williams.

A victim's personal statement was made by Mr Murray's sister-in-law, Sharon Murray, on behalf of the family in which she said Mr Murray was a hardworking husband, father and brother.

As his wife died from cancer at just 41, his health deteriorated and his family put a care plan in place for him.

Later, she said, he took an overdose and never recovered.

She said that because of the "pure greed" of Riordan, the family didn't even have the money for a funeral.

Riordan did not tell the police how he had used the cash.

The Recorder, Simon Miller, assured the family that they should feel no guilt concerning Mr Murray, and said they had in no way done anything wrong.

Riordan was said to have a previous conviction of battery and theft concerning when he was working at Cardiff Airport in May 2015 and was spotted on CCTV pocketing cash.

His counsel, Owen Williams, said: "It is accepted there was a high gross degree of breach of trust, and he has realised he caused harm to the victims and their families."

He said that having read the evidence, Riordan realised the extent of his wrong-doing.

"He is motivated to change and better himself," said Mr Williams.

The Recorder pointed out Mr Riordan's behaviour had harmed both families and that only immediate custodial sentence could be passed.

Man (50) had 549 indecent images of children on home computer

More than 500 pornographic pictures of children, some as young as four, were discovered by police officers when they examined computers being used by a Penarth man, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

David Parton (50) of Windsor Road, was said by Recorder Simon Mills to "have some sort of sexual fetish for spanking".

Parton, a man with no previous convictions, admitted three charges of possessing indecent pictures of children and one of distributing an indecent photograph.

Prosecutor David Pugh said that police went to Parton's home on September 5 last year, where he lived with his wife. He showed officers that he had uploaded movies and pictures of children.

He was cautioned, and he made no reply. A number of computers were removed and examined and a total of 549 indecent images were found – 44 of category A, the most serious; 112 of category B and 397 of category C.

Parton later told the police: "I am looking at jail time."

He admitted that he had been viewing images for four or five years and had an interest in spanking. He said he had never wanted to actually participate in such activity and needed help.

Mr Pugh said Parton had been remanded in custody because there had been a danger of him self-harming.

Before mitigation by his counsel, Kevin Seal, the Recorder said he had read a moving letter from Parton's wife.

Mr Seal said he had been in custody since March 7 and was the first to acknowledge he must be punished. He said his wife did not condone his behaviour in any way but she, an intelligent person, was prepared to support him.

The Recorder pointed out Parton had made admissions from the start, assisted the police, expressed remorse and pleaded guilty at the first opportunity.

He was jailed for 12 months, suspended for two years and ordered to carry out 100 hours unpaid work, be subject to a Sexual Harm Prevention Order for 10 years and to register as a sex offender for 10 years.

It was ordered that his computer equipment be forfeited.

Bowling club's open day

BARRY Central Bowling Club is holding an open day on Saturday, April 15 at 2pm at Gladstone Gardens, Buttrills Road, Barry, close to the Memorial Hall and opposite Gladstone School.

The club is open from April 16 every day through the summer from 11am to 5pm; all newcomers and beginners welcome.

Qualified coaches will show beginners how to play – all you need to bring with you is a pair of flat shoes (no heels).

Interested? Contact club secretary Pat Widger on 01446 735260 or call in to the clubhouse.

Patients' book of poetry is dedicated to Barry-born Liz

Liz Baker.

***RIGHT:** At the Loving Gratitude launch are (from left) harpist Delyth Jenkins, ABMU arts in health coordinator Prue Thimbleby and poet Cheryl Beer*

A BOOK of poems co-written by patients at Morriston Hospital has been dedicated to the memory of one of its creative forces.

Loving Gratitude is a collaboration between patients in the hospital's renal unit, a nurse and an award-winning poet and songwriter Cheryl Beer.

It came about as part of ABMU's arts in health programme, which looks to 'incorporate the arts into all health board services for the benefit of patients as well as visitors and staff'.

Arts in health coordinator Prue Thimbleby teamed up with renal services lead nurse Liz Baker, who was born in Barry, to organise a project which would see Cheryl Beer work with patients having dialysis at Morriston Hospital.

Cheryl visited 56 patients over an eight-month period during their treatment, working one to one.

Prue said: "She sat down to chat with patients, then took snippets of what they said and read it back to them as poetry. The patients didn't actually put pen to paper. They talked to Cheryl and she took phrases and sentences so it became a poem between them.

"Often when Cheryl read the poem back to the patient they said things like *'that's exactly right – you have captured it perfectly'*. It is effective because it is a shared writing process.

"During the project a theme began to emerge – the overwhelming gratitude of patients towards their family and carers, to the medical teams, to having access to treatment and, ultimately, the gift of life."

Liz Baker died last month after a short illness, just weeks before *Loving Gratitude's* official launch at Morriston Hospital. Liz was a nurse for 38 years, 32 of them spent at Morriston Hospital. During this time she established and built up the network of renal services across south west Wales.

More recently, she led on the modernisation of facilities for rental patients in Morriston Hospital. She also helped develop an MSc syllabus at Cardiff University.

The anthology, subtitled '*The Poetics of Renal Dialysis*' is dedicated to Liz's memory.

Her family and friends were invited to the launch.

Liz's sister Angela Baker said: "This wonderful book of poetry is a fitting tribute to our dear sister Liz, who dedicated her life to the care of her patients.

Copies of the book are available from Prue (Prue.Thimbleby@wales.nhs.uk) for £3, with proceeds supporting future arts projects for renal patients.

Heated reception for First Minister over energy plant

WHEN the First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM, arrived in Barry on Monday, April 3, for his 'Carwyn Connect' event, a heated reception awaited him in the form of Barry residents keen to vent their anger at the fear that a gasification plant on the docks may be granted a licence.

The First Minister missed out on the 'reception party' outside the Memorial Hall – it appears he entered the building from a different direction.

One protestor told The GEM: "Inside, he faced some very taxing questions on the incinerator particularly from Barry resident protester Alexis Liasatos."

LATE NEWS: Mr Jones has written to Natural Resources Wales to ask it to extend the consultation deadline (currently May 8) on the environmental permit required at the plant.

Peterston ladies step out on the catwalk to raise funds for church roof restoration fund!

Peterston-super-Ely church and community hall was the venue for a superb ladies' fashion show on Friday, March 24.

A packed hall enjoyed a light supper, enhanced by a first-class presentation of clothes by Samantha B of Ewenny.

The models were all ladies from the village, and proceeds from the evening were donated to the St Peter's Church roof restoration fund.

Photographs by Ian Dixon.

ABOVE: The organiser of the evening, Jan Parry (right) with Samatha of Samantha b

GORCHYMYN CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

(PENTREF TRESIGIN)

GORCHYMYN (CYFYNGIAD CYFLYMDER 30 MYA) 2017

1. Ar 4 Ebril 2017, gwnaeth Cyngor Bro Morgannwg wrth arfer ei bwerau dan Adran 84 Deddf Rheoleiddio Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 a'r holl bwerau galluogi eraill Orchymyn a fydd yn gorfodi'r hyn a ddisgrifir yn yr Atodlen isod.

2. Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 10 Ebril 2017 neu ar y dyddiad y bydd yr arwyddion traffig a'r marciau ffordd angenrheidiol mewn lle pa un bynnag ddaw olaf a gellir gweld copi o'r Gorchymyn a map yn dangos yr ardaloedd yr effeithir arnynt yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol.

3. Os ydych am gwestiynu dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn neu'r darpariaethau ynddo ar y sail nad ydynt yn unol â'r pwerau a ddyfarnwyd gan y Ddeddf uchod neu ar y sail nas cydymffurfiwyd ag unrhyw un o ofynion y Ddeddf, neu unrhyw offeryn a wnaed dan y Ddeddf mewn perthynas â'r Gorchymyn, gallwch, o fewn chwech wythnos o 10 Ebril 2017, wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwn.

ATODLEN 1

Ni fydd unrhyw berson yn achosi neu'n caniatáu i gerbyd deithio'n gyflymach na 30 m.y.a. yn y lleoliadau a nodir yn Atodlen 2 isod.

ATODLEN 2

Pentref Tresigin

O'r arwyddion porth ar lwybr nesáu'r gorllewin o Landŵ am tua 520 metr tua'r gorllewin

O'r arwyddion porth ar y llwybr nesáu gogleddol am dua 730 metr tua'r de.

Dyddiedig 6 Ebril 2017.

M. E. Punter
Cyfarwyddwr Amgylchedd a Thai
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Yr Alpau,
Gwenfô, CF5 6AA

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

(SIGINGSTONE VILLAGE)

(30 MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) ORDER 2017

1. On the 4th April 2017 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the Schedule below.

2. The Order will come into operation on the 10th April 2017 or on the date that the signs and road markings are in place, whichever is the later, and a copy of the Order and a plan showing the affected areas may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

3. If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 10th April 2017 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

SCHEDULE 1

No person shall cause or permit a vehicle to proceed at a speed greater than 30 miles per hour in the locations specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Sigingstone Village

From the gateway signage on the western approach route from Llandow for a distance of approximately 520 metres in a westerly direction

From the gateway signage on the northern approach route for a distance of approximately 730 metres in a southerly direction.

Dated this 6th day of April 2017.

M. E. Punter
Director of Environment & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps,
Wenvoe CF5 6AA

Youth service honoured for improving lives of young people

Members of the Vale Council collect their Bronze Quality Mark.

THE Vale Council Youth Service was recently awarded the Bronze Quality Mark for youth work – one of the first local authorities in Wales to receive the honour.

The presentation took place at the Angel Hotel in Cardiff after a conference opened by Alun Davies, Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language.

At the end of the conference, Sally Holland, Children's Commissioner for Wales, handed Vale Youth Service its prize.

Paula Ham, Vale of Glamorgan Council director of learning and skills, said: "I am so pleased that the hard work, positivity and commitment of the youth service to improving outcomes for young people has been formally recognised."

COFFEE AND BOOKS!

MEGA book sale and coffee morning on April 8 from 10.30am –1pm at Trinity Methodist Church, Woodland Place, Penarth.

A spokesperson said: "Good quality secondhand books of almost every genre will be on sale along with refreshments, baked goods and a raffle.

"All profits go to Penarth singer-songwriter Martyn Joseph's charity – the Let Yourself Trust – which does work both in the UK and all over the world. The book sale is free to enter and everyone is welcome, so do come along and join us."

Introduction of postal bowel cancer test kit 'proves popular'

ACCORDING to research, 56 per cent of people living in the Vale sent a bowel cancer screening test in the post actually complete it: that's four in 10 Vale residents whose lives may be at risk.

Bowel Cancer UK, a cancer research charity, is encouraging people living in the Vale to take part in the screening programme as part of Bowel Cancer Awareness Month in this month.

It is estimated that in April alone in Wales, nearly 191 people will be diagnosed with bowel cancer and 82 people will die of the disease. However, bowel cancer is treatable and curable, especially if diagnosed early.

Uptake rates for bowel cancer screening are low with variations across Wales. The bottom five areas that need to see the most improvement are Wrexham (49 per cent), Cardiff (50 per cent), Blaenau Gwent (51 per cent), Merthyr Tydfil (51 per cent), and Newport (52 per cent).

The top five areas with the highest uptake are Monmouthshire (58 per cent), Isle of Anglesey (57 per cent), Gwynedd (57 per cent), the Vale (56 per cent) and Bridgend (56 per cent).

Bowel Screening Wales can detect bowel cancer at an early stage in people with no symptoms, when it is easier to treat and a greater chance of survival. People registered with a GP and aged 60-74 will receive a test in the post every two years.

Recipients carry out the simple test at home in private and it comes with step-by-step instructions.

To find out more about bowel cancer and screening, visit: bowelcanceruk.org.uk.

For the latest news and sports stories from your area, visit **www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk** each day.

Muddy good fun with the Vale Ramblers!

TWENTY members joined the leader, Ian Fraser on the eight-mile Rhymney Valley Ridgeway walk.

Starting at Bedwas, we walked along the ridge enjoying the clear views across the valley towards Caerphilly, its castle majestically prominent and proud. Walking in a clockwise direction, we joined the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway at Mynydd y Grug, which was very boggy and wet, although it seemed perfect for the many scramble bike riders who were also using the route.

It was very slippy in places and large puddles which were avoided rather gracefully by most, but not by one member who enjoyed a mud bath as he slipped on the mud and into a very dirty puddle, not once but twice.

Thankfully, a resourceful passer-by had kitchen roll in the back of their vehicle which they gladly shared to help with the clean up.

As we started to descend, the Sirhowy Valley was below us and the villages of Wattsville and Cwmfelinfach in the distance were enjoying the midday sunshine; the view we had as we enjoyed our lunch stop was across to the other side of the valley where there seems to be quite a lot of deforestation taking place. As we continued on our way, we were able to enjoy the panoramic views that opened up around every corner: in the distance we could clearly make out Corn Du and Pen y Fan, and as we continued we could see the Bristol Channel on the horizon glistening in the afternoon sunshine.

It was a perfect walking day, and a very enjoyable walk. Thanks to Ian for leading the walk.

From Bedwas at the end of the walk we made our way to Toby Inn, Crossways for a well earned post-walk drink. Further information is available at www.valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk, or follow us on Twitter or Facebook.

GWENDA FITZPATRICK

Passover meal in Sully

SULLY Community Church is arranging a Passover meal on Saturday, April 22 at 6.30pm at The Old School, South Road Sully.

There is no charge; there will also be teaching (Exodus 12 v 26).

To book your place, contact Doug on 02920 530816 Hilary on 02920 531181 or email marian.harris@tiscali.co.uk if you would like to attend.

PACT meetings

GIBBONSDOWN PACT at Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close, Barry, every Monday between 10am and 12 noon.

COURT PACT at the Witchill Community Centre, Dyfan Road, Barry, on Thursday, April 13 at 6.30pm.

CASTLELAND PACT at Morrisons supermarket on Saturday, April 15 at 10am.

CADOC PACT at Waitrose, Palmerston Road, Barry, on Tuesday, April 18 between 2pm and 4pm.

LLANDOW/EWENNY coffee and chat at the Carne Arms, Llysworney at 11am on Tuesday, April 18.

If you have any issues and are unable to attend a meeting, contact 101 for non emergencies or log onto: www.south-wales.police.uk.

Local newspapers fuel property market activity

LOCAL newspapers are a catalyst for activity in the property market with local press readers far more likely than average to be considering buying or selling property in the next year, according to independent data.

The chief executive of NAEA Propertymark, the National Association of Estate Agents, said that local newspapers will remain a "key platform" for estate agents for many years to come, because they are so effective.

According to TGI, local press is a particularly effective catalyst for young first time buyers with local press readers in their 20s or 30s – millennials – 160 per cent more likely than average to be expecting to purchase their first home in the next 12 months.

Older local press readers are also far more likely than average to be active in the property market. Local press readers aged in their 30s, 40s or 50s – Generation X – are 74 per cent more likely than average to be expecting to sell or purchase a house or flat in the next 12 months.

According to Consumer Catalyst, local media – local newspapers and their websites – are the most popular source for keeping an eye on the property market with 56 per cent of people citing estate agent ads in local media as their source compared to 37 per cent, the next highest, who cited property websites such as Rightmove or Zoopla.

Local media drives people to take action – 29 per cent of people looked at a property in more detail online after seeing an ad or article in local media.

Mark Hayward, chief executive, NAEA Propertymark, said: "Local newspapers, both print and digital, are an essential platform for estate agents to communicate with the marketplace. They are highly trusted and, therefore, estate agents rightly see them as effective outlets through which to advertise both properties and the wider services they offer.

"This is important for estate agents who, like local papers, are a part of the communities they serve.

The media landscape is changing but local newspapers will remain a key platform for estate agents and will continue to have a central role to play in property marketing for many years to come."

Local press Gen X readers are 156 per cent more likely to have responded to a residential property classified ad while local press millennial readers are 171 per cent more likely to have responded to a residential property classified ad, and are 121 per cent more likely to have placed one, according to TGI.

British Legion recruits nurses to tackle dementia

THE Royal British Legion is recruiting more Admiral Nurses in Wales to provide additional support to families caring for a loved one with dementia.

Paula Smith, the Legion's Admiral Nurse national lead, said: "The commitment to recruiting new nurses to the Royal British Legion reflects the fact that there is a genuine need to provide more support for families living with dementia in Wales. This will have a really positive impact on the quality of care our patients receive."

The Royal British Legion Admiral Nurses offer specialist support, information and advice to the carers of people with dementia.

The service has been developed in partnership with Dementia UK, the national charity that provides specialist dementia support for families through Admiral Nursing.

To qualify for support, the carer or the person with dementia needs to be a beneficiary of the Royal British Legion, which includes anyone who has served in the British Armed Forces, their family and their carers.

The Royal British Legion recognises that, with an aging population, there is a need for further investment in dementia care amongst the Armed Forces community.

There are almost 200 Admiral Nurses in the UK working in a variety of care settings and they work on some of the most complex cases and provide expert one-to-one practical, clinical and emotional support.

Admiral Nurses are the specialists working in dementia care to focus on improving the physical, psychological and emotional wellbeing of both the carer and the person with dementia.

Paula Smith said: "I feel immensely proud to be an Admiral Nurse because, each day, I have an opportunity to make a real difference, whilst the support of the Royal British Legion and Dementia UK helps us to deliver care where it is most needed."

To apply, visit: www.britishlegion.org.uk/about-us/jobs/

UK's regional publishers call on national advertisers to place their trust in local news brands.

Dear Advertiser,

As Google, YouTube and Facebook continue to grapple with the concerns around ads appearing next to extremist content and fake news, we wanted to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the **trusted, safe** and **highly responsive** online advertising environment provided by the UK's local news brands and represented by the 1XL partnership.

As a premium publisher co-operative, 1XL represents over **800 local news brands** in the UK with a reach of over **22.7 million** people, making us one of the country's largest digital advertising propositions. This ranges from the Shetland Times in the north of Scotland to the Falmouth Packet in Cornwall, and includes large regional brands such as The Yorkshire Post and The Aberdeen Press & Journal. In many of the towns and cities that we publish in, we now reach over **70%** of the adult population each month.

Our content is produced by **thousands of trained and highly skilled local journalists** who spend their days engaging with communities up and down the country through their coverage of the stories and events affecting their readers lives. Our content is **regulated** by the **Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO)**, the independent regulator that holds us to account for our actions and upholds our high standards of journalism. The context in which this puts your advertising increases **engagement, trust** and therefore consumer response, giving you **better value for money** alongside the peace of mind of a **safe advertising** placement.

Maintaining the **integrity** of our content and our advertising environment is fundamental to us, and local news brands have always scored extremely well for trust. This was validated by a recent Comscore survey of UK Internet users - people said they trusted content on local news sites almost three times more than they did on social media.

Today we publish our **online advertising charter** (available at 1xl.co.uk/adcharter). The purpose of this is to ensure our advertisers are given the chance to see the standards and processes we work to in order to **guarantee** that they get the **transparency, trust** and **value** that we believe they deserve.

We stand in agreement that local news brands online are now more than ever a great place for you to communicate and market your business and brands to UK consumers.

What's more your advertising helps us to **continue to fund** much needed, **high quality local journalism**. We hope you will stand together with us to support our local news brands, many of which have been publishing for over 150 years, so their unique content can continue to be loved and trusted for many generations to come.

1XL

Speaker's talk on the history of Dyffryn Gardens

THE chairman of Barry Men's Forum welcomed the return of the speaker, Gwerfyl Gardener, who talked about the local National Trust's newly acquired Dyffryn Estate house and gardens.

The earliest records are of a house at Dyffryn back in the 7th century, but the earliest history of residents she had been able to trace was in the 16th century, when Miles Button, an influential member of Queen Elizabeth I's retinue bought the estate.

One of his four sons, Sir Thomas Button, who was later knighted, followed a successful career in the Royal Navy, rising to the rank of Admiral, alongside the more famous Raleigh. The family supported the Royalists, lost their vast fortune, and had to sell up.

It was purchased by Thomas Pryce, an early iron master, who made his money largely by selling muskets. Due to a lack of heirs, the estate passed to the Rev Thomas Bruce, whose family is well recorded in the church at St Nicholas.

The more recent occupants were the Cory family. They came from humble beginnings, with a sailing vessel trading around the coast. Richard Cory recognised the developments taking place at Cardiff and moved his family from Bideford.

Setting up in Cardiff as a ships' chandler, his business quickly developed to shipping coal, before he was able to purchase coal mines.

The firm was then inherited by his two sons. It was John Cory who purchased Dyffryn in 1891, soon after his successful involvement with the development of Barry Docks.

Reginald Cory, his son, roamed the world as a 'plant hunter', bringing back many exotic species for the gardens, which remain for us to view to this day.

The next meeting is on April 13, when speaker Sally Maylee will talk about the Bayeux Tapestry.

New members are welcome at £2 per meeting, which includes light refreshments and starts at 10.15am at the Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall, every Thursday morning.

For further information, contact chairman Mac Tanner on 01446 743455.

PMW

Penarth Aviation Society

THE next meeting of the Penarth Aviation Society will be held on Friday, April 7 at 8pm in the Penarth Conservative Club.

The subject this month is 'The Up and Down History of VTOL development' when society member Mike Duxbury will reveal his findings on the progress of vertical take off and landing over the last century and possible future developments in this field.

Why not join the society? We meet on the first Friday of the month at the Penarth Conservative Club. See www.penarthaviationsociety.co.uk or contact secretary Barrie Howell on 02921 322385.

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WE ARE HOLDING AN OPEN DAY ON WEDNESDAY, 12TH APRIL 2017!!!

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Are you looking for serviced office space in the heart of Barry? Look no further!

We have a number of newly furnished offices available for rent on St Mary's Avenue, each floor having its own toilet and kitchen facilities (there is also a communal kitchen on the ground floor and a shower room on the first floor), and includes the use of a Boardroom with presentation facilities.

Rental includes electricity, water and business rates.
A turn-key facility that you can move straight into. Just bring your staff and computer hardware/software, set up your own Broadband and you're good to go. Immediate availability.

Please call Sharon on 01446 506508 to book your viewing slot.

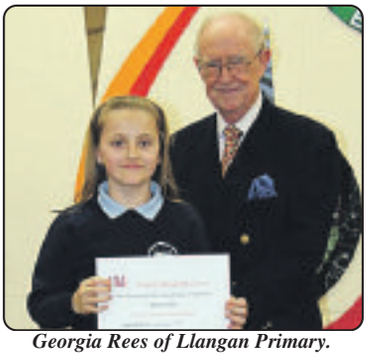
VALE PUPILS DISCOVER THEIR VOICES

Eva Gillette, Y Bont Faen Primary, with Derek Morgan.

St Davids Colwinston's winning team.

Sophie Rogers of St Bride's

Audrey Pigued, from Peterston



Georgia Rees of Llangan Primary.

Gentle Jack loves walks and a curl-up

Jack's a sweet chap!

JACK is a sweet, gentle, eight-year-old Collie Cross who is happy after a walk to spend the day curled up relaxing.

He can live with another calm dog already in the home and children over the age of 11.

Jack can be worried by intense handling, so a slow approach would be best for him. He would make the perfect companion if you are looking for an older dog to keep you company and enjoy walks.

If you could offer Jack a home, contact Dogs Trust Bridgend on 01656 725219 or see www.dogstrust.org.uk.

The St Bride's team were runners-up.

Millie Smith of St Bride's.

Madison Clay of Llansannor.

MARCH 2017 saw the inauguration of a public speaking workshop and competition for year-6 pupils in Vale primary schools.

The initiative was led by the deputy headteacher of St Bride's Church in Wales Primary School, Catherine Jenkins, in partnership with the South Wales branch of the English Speaking Union, and it is hoped that it will become an annual event.

Seven primary schools competed, though more were represented at the workshop on March 15, where the aim was to introduce the pupils to the skills they would need in the competition.

Ten pupils from each school took part in a range of activities. They were enthusiastic and confident, enjoyed the challenges and all went home with a medal to commemorate the event.

Teachers then had the unenviable task of choosing a team of three pupils to represent the school in the competition itself on March 25 at St Bride's Primary School.

Each school team had a chairperson, a speaker and a questioner, and topics discussed ranged from 'Is watching TV a waste of time?' and 'Should children under 11 be allowed to use social networking sites?' to 'We think public transport should be free to all.'

The standard achieved was extremely high and the audience, including parents, grandparents, teachers and pupils, appreciated the preparation and energy that the teams had put into their performances.

The three judges, Katherine Kettle, Derek Morgan and Stephen Page, made the following decisions:

Highly Commended Speaker, Ella Gillette, Y Bont Faen; Highly Commended Speaker, Millie Smith, St Bride's; Highly Commended Speaker, Georgia Rees, Llangan; Best Chairperson, Audrey Pigued, Peterston super Ely; Best Speaker, Madison Clay, Llansannor; Best Questioner, Sophie Rogers, St Bride's.

Runner-up team, St Bride's; chair, Eva Gough; speaker, Imogen John; Questioner, Sophie Rogers.

Winning team, St David's Church in Wales Primary School, Colwinston; Chair: Georgie Griffiths; Speaker: Danica Little; Questioner: Sam Shepphard.

All pupils received a certificate recording their success and the ESU Primary Public Speaking Trophy was presented to the team from St David's by Derek Morgan, chairperson of the branch and David Jenkins, treasurer..

The ESU is grateful to all the schools that supported this initiative. Particular thanks go to the headteacher and staff of St Bride's School for their hospitality at both the workshop and the competition itself.

For further information about the ESU locally, please contact the chairman, Derek Morgan on derekwmorgan@gmail.com.

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GVS success with funding

GLAMORGAN Voluntary Services (GVS) has held four successful funding surgeries since the start of 2017 with major funding bodies in Wales.

Twenty-six groups have taken advantage of the opportunity to meet the Big Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund, Sport Wales and BBC Children in Need to discuss projects that will benefit people and communities in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The funding surgeries are just one of the many services that GVS provides for groups serving the Vale.

You can find out more about these services and join GVS on our website at: www.gvs.wales.

Easter at Barry library!

EASTER activities at Barry library (places must be booked) are: Easter Bonnet crafts on Monday, April 10 from 2pm – 3pm for ages 4+. £1 charge.

Easter boxes on Tuesday, April 11 from 10.30am – 11.30am for ages 4+. £1 charge.

Code Club on April 11 from 3pm – 4pm for ages 9 – 11. Free.

Inventor's box workshop on Wednesday, April 12 from 10.30am – 12pm. For ages 3 – 8, 50p charge.

Film – *Rise of the Guardians* (PG) on Thursday, April 13 from 10.30am. Recommended age 7+.

Drop-in Easter Craft – decorating Easter eggs on Thursday, April 13 from 2pm – 3.30pm. All ages, free.

Easter Bonnet parade and egg hunt on Saturday, April 14 from 10.30am – 12pm. All ages!

For any of these activities call 01446 422425 to book your place.

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Please note the changes to your waste and recycling collection days, this Easter.

Normal Collection Day:	Will Now Be:
Friday 14th April	**Saturday 15th April**
Monday 17th April	**Tuesday 18th April**
Tuesday 18th April	**Wednesday 19th April**
Wednesday 19th April	**Thursday 20th April**
Thursday 20th April	**Friday 21st April**
Friday 21st April	**Saturday 22nd April**

The Waste and Recycling online calendars on the Council website have been amended to reflect these new collection dates.
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/recycle

Nodwch y newidiadau i'ch diwrnodau casglu gwastraff ac ailgylchu, y Pasg hwn.

Diwrnod Casglu Arferol:	Diwrnod Casglu Newydd:
Dydd Gwener 14 Ebrill	**Dydd Sadwrn 15 Ebrill**
Dydd Llun 17 Ebrill	**Dydd Mawrth 18 Ebrill**
Dydd Mawrth 18 Ebrill	**Dydd Mercher 19 Ebrill**
Dydd Mercher 19 Ebrill	**Dydd Iau 20 Ebrill**
Dydd Iau 20 Ebrill	**Dydd Gwener 21 Ebrill**
Dydd Gwener 21 Ebrill	**Dydd Sadwrn 22 Ebrill**

Mae'r calendrau Gwastraff ac Ailgylchu ar-lein ar wefan y Cyngor wedi'u diwygio i adlewyrchu'r dyddiadau casglu newydd hyn.
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Velindre doctor wins clinical teaching award

DR MARK TAUBERT, a palliative care consultant and clinical director for palliative medicine at Velindre NHS Trust, has won the prestigious BMA Cymru Wales/BMJ Clinical Teacher of the Year Award for 2017.

Award winners at the recent BMA Cymru Wales/BMJ Clinical Teacher of the Year ceremony.

He picked up the award at The Clinical Teacher of the Year Awards, held at National Museum of Wales on March 29. The award recognises clinical teachers who have excelled in their work, supporting doctors in training and medical students in Wales.

The judges were particularly impressed by the quality of nominees this year and commended Dr Taubert specifically for his teaching style.

In his role as educational supervisor, Mark has given junior colleagues the words, insights and vocabulary to express an aspect of life that we would often rather avoid talking about, but that, at some point, affects us all.

His engaging approach has had a positive impact on his students and ultimately the patients they have gone on to support.

As a clinical teacher, Mark regularly uses modern cultural references as a starting-point for difficult conversations that have significant educational and emotional impacts on others. In January 2016,

Mark spoke about the death of David Bowie to inspire discussions amongst trainees, terminally-ill patients and their relatives, as well as on palliative care ward rounds with senior house officers and registrars, in order to help them all in better understanding the nature of the illness.

Mark wrote an open letter, which initially acted as a good-bye and 'thank you' note to Bowie, but transformed to include aspects about Mark's own life and those of his patients.

The letter went on to incorporate the aims of palliative care in general, capturing some of the big topics in "end of life" care, including the extent of medical intervention wanted by patients coming to the end of their lives, and the ways trainees would need to conduct difficult conversations on this issue for the benefit of patients themselves.

Mark's letter was re-tweeted by Duncan Jones, David Bowie's son – his only interaction with the wider world immediately following his father's death.

Dr Philip Banfield, BMA Welsh Council Chair, added: ""Dynamic clinical teachers are key to the delivery of high quality training for our doctors throughout their professional careers.

"The quality of clinical teaching in Wales is a clear reason for doctors to make Wales their preferred choice to complete their postgraduate training."

HOLY WEEK SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE VALE

HOLY WEEK Services – Barry and St Athan, Vale of Glamorgan Methodist Circuit:

Friday, April 7 Cadoxton – Easter Craft activities with worship and chocolate for all children and carers at 3.15pm.

Palm Sunday, April 9 – 'The Easter Story' Choir, circuit evening service at Trinity, Penarth 6pm.

Tuesday, April 11 at Crossway – Holy Communion service 2pm.

Barry Uniting Church – Reading through the Gospel 7pm.

Maundy Thursday, April 13 at Cadoxton – Holy Communion 7pm.

St David's – Holy Communion and service of light and darkness at 7.30pm.

Good Friday, April 14 at Tathan Parish Church, St Athan – United Service 12.30pm.

Churches of Barry Walk of Witness, starts at Parade Gardens at 12pm and concludes in King Square at about 1.15pm. (6pm Walk of Witness in Dinas at Twyn.)

10.30am Cadoxton – open for prayer. St David's – open for prayer and silence between 2pm – 3pm.

Easter Day Sunrise Service: 6am, cliff tops, Penarth. Morning worship with Holy Communion: 9.45am at St David's; 9.45am at Cadoxton; 10am at The Gathering Place, St Athan; 10.30am at Barry Uniting Church (Waterfront) and 10.30am in Dinas; 11am at Crossway; 11am at St John on Barry Island.

For information call Revs P and C Challis on 01446 678730 or Rev P Taylor on 01446 406262.

Vale NFU meeting

DR ALEX REES of the 'Mothers of Africa' charity in the Gambia spoke on how they are facing A high mortality rate in teenage pregnancies – it was a very moving subject.

Ray Evans gave the vote of thanks and Frances Rees won the raffle. We next meet on Wednesday, April 26 at 2pm at the Millennium Centre to see *Sister Act*.

John Sheer will be our speaker on Tuesday, May 16 in Penllyn village hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

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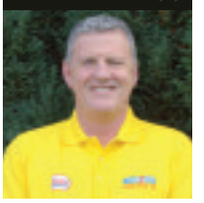

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Secretary of State for Wales and Vale MP tells of Westminster terrorist attack

TWO weeks after the terrorist attack that shook Westminster, Alun Cairns – Secretary of State for Wales and Vale MP – answers some key questions about how the day unfolded.

Where were you before the attack took place?

I had been in a meeting with the Prime Minister, Chancellor and a number of other colleagues in a room beneath the House of Commons chamber. We were scheduled to meet at Downing Street but because we were expecting a number of votes, the meeting had been switched to the Palace of Westminster.

During the course of the meeting, the Division Bell rang.

The Prime Minister adjourned the meeting, with a specific request to return as soon as possible to continue the discussion.

What happened next?

We went upstairs to vote. As we climbed the stairs and went through to the Division Lobby, the Chancellor and I continued to discuss an issue that had been raised in the meeting. This continued as our names were ticked off having voted.

In the Division Lobby, there were more than a 100 members or so. This is where MPs will often raise constituency matters with Ministers.

I noticed that the PM was chatting with a colleague and moments later, she had disappeared. I thought nothing of this and assumed that she was keen to return to our meeting, as per her request.

How did you first hear that there had been an attack?

The Chancellor and I continued to make our way back to the meeting room, walking against the flow of people, who were making their way to vote, when a message came through to say that there had been an incident and we should wait.

We had no idea what type of incident had occurred. I initially thought that someone had fallen down the stairs, or maybe that there was a protest outside causing problems for MPs to get through to vote.

We were then told that there had been a stabbing and that gun shots had been heard.

This naturally changed the atmosphere. We immediately returned to the meeting room to gather our papers and notes, when the official advised us that the meeting was abandoned and that the PM would want to call a 'Cobra' meeting.

Our over-riding concern was for the welfare of anyone involved and for the safety and security of the building.

I was also concerned that the news would worry my family; I sent a text immediately to advise them that I was safe. Thankfully, this was so early in the incident, this was the first notice they received.

Where did you go then?

I returned to the Division Lobby level, where news hadn't by then permeated through to all members. The vote was still live, with hundreds of MPs continuing to make their way to the lobby. Some went in to the chamber to hear the result ahead of the next vote and others waited around the corridor.

I decided to make my way to my office, which is close by. I wanted to watch the news to see what was happening. My office window overlooks the site of the attack and it is from this position I realised the extent of the attack. I went cold.

The ambulance had arrived and I saw the to-ing and fro-ing of the police, the public and emergency services directly outside my office window. A helicopter landed in Parliament Square and the scale of the response highlighted how serious the incident was.

The television news then started to report what was happening.

What were you able to do in the hours that followed?

At this moment, a message came over the internal speaker system instructing us to stay where we were and that the building was 'locked down'. The television reported that the Chamber had been locked too.

I was also worried for staff members in their offices elsewhere. They were later moved to another building.

I waited in my office for five hours. Shortly after being told not to move, armed police entered the corridor seeking to escort a cabinet colleague to a meeting because they were part of the response effort.

MPs poked their heads cautiously though to the corridor. This gave reassurance that there were others around.

Many of us gathered in each other's offices to try to gain a better understanding of what was happening.

We noted dogs searching the building, presumably in case an attacker remained in the building.

Five hours later, we were then permitted to leave.

What were you feelings as details of the attack emerged?

My first thoughts were for those directly involved. We all know the police officers personally. We chat every day as we pass through security. At that time, we didn't know who the victim was. There was a subdued atmosphere and a great deal of sadness.

I then rushed to catch the train to return home to the Vale. I had never been so grateful to arrive home safely, but was still thinking of those who had been involved.

It is also worth noting that I had arranged for a coach tour to visit Parliament the following day. This went ahead in defiance of the attack and I am grateful to those from the Vale who continued as planned, while also being understanding of the small number who dropped out.

The atmosphere during this tour was different and very respectful of those who were lost and for those who protect us.

What happens now?

Naturally, there is a full investigation and I don't want to pre-empt any conclusion. The incident reminds us how fragile the relationships between communities are and that we must do all to integrate and to support each other.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Valeways walks

ON Wednesday, April 12 at 10.30am, the Cosmeston coffee shop strollers meet outside the visitor centre at Cosmeston Country Park.

Also on April 12 at 2.30pm, the Llantwit Major coffee shop strollers meet outside Llantwit Major Town Hall in the car park.

On Thursday, April 13 at 10.30am, 'To the Beach', starting at Llantwit Major railway station car park.

On Sunday, April 16 at 2pm, 'A Spring Walk in the Woods,' starting at St Peter's Church, Mill Road, Dinas Powys.

Porthcawl Floral Arrangement Society

AT Awel-y-Mor on April 12 at 7.30pm a flower demonstration will be given by Arnaud Metairie entitled 'From My Shed'.

Doors open at 6.30pm, all warmly welcomed.

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Out & About with The GEM

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE IN YOUR AREA

Library opening hours

THE newly-established Community Library run by volunteers in Dinas Powys has extended the afternoon opening hours.

The new hours are 10am to 12 noon and 2pm to 4.30pm Monday to Friday, except Thursdays, when the library is closed in the afternoon; Saturday, 10am to 12 noon.

Biomass plant protest

A PEACEFUL protest is being organised by DIAG (Docks Incinerator Action Group) for residents concerned about the Biomass plant currently under construction on Barry waterfront. This will consume 200 tons of waste wood each day.

Please meet at 12 noon on Saturday, April 8 outside the Civic Offices in Barry. We will then proceed to King Square for the finale.

For more information call Tim Bird on 01446 772614.

Dinas play

THE Dinas Powys Players present *Night Must Fall* at the Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys at 7.30pm on April 6, 7 and 8.

Easter cake sale!

FRIENDS of Penarth library are having an Easter cake sale at the library between 10am and 1pm on Saturday, April 8.

Cowbridge U3A

THE next Cowbridge U3A meeting will be a talk entitled 'The Enemy we Killed, my Friend', by Captain David Jones at 2pm on Wednesday, April 12 in Cowbridge Town Hall.

Visitors welcome (for a small fee, which includes refreshments). *See www.u3asites.org.uk/cowbridge*

Help for scam victims

SCAMS are a big issue for the elderly as they can be targeted over the phone, online, by post or in person. Have you been the victim of a scam and want help reporting it?

Come along to the Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, April 11 from 10am to 12 noon. No appointment necessary; contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Getting online

IF you have hearing loss and would like to be more confident with going online, and using the internet, every Friday morning from 10.30am to 12pm Action on Hearing will be at Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

Help will be given on using the internet, learning to make the most of your smart phone or tablet. Learn about communication apps such as Facetime, Skype, and Facebook.

No appointment is needed. Call 01446 732385 or talk to Chris Lazo on 02920 523129.

Welfare rights

IF you live in the Vale and need advice on benefits, such as pension credits, attendance allowance, or housing benefit, Age Connects Cardiff and Vale run a free welfare rights advice service.

An adviser from Age Connects Cardiff and Vale will be available to help with form filling. A session will be held on Tuesday, April 11 from 9.30am to 11.30am at The Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road Barry.

No appointment needed, just come along. For further information call 01446 732385; home visits can be arranged if needed.

Easter Messy Church

REV Martyn, Rev Lee and the team invite toddlers (with their parents), youngsters and teenagers to the next messy church in the Reading Room, Bonvilston, on Easter Sunday at 2.30pm. There will be craft activities, an Easter egg hunt and refreshments, including hot cross buns.

A collection for the Vale Foodbank will be made and you are invited to bring an item or two – tinned/dried food, tea bags, instant coffee, jam, biscuits, etc. For further information, call Lee Dutfield on 07784 869020.

Back to the 60s at New Theatre

Chart-topper and '80s icon Sonia will lead a star cast including *X-Factor's* Niki Evans and Helena Blackman from *How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maria* in the first UK tour of *Shout!* that visits Cardiff's New Theatre later in April.

Following the lives of five women in their 20s, 30s and 40s who are all facing tough situations – usually involving love and relationships – they write to Gwendolyn Holmes, an agony aunt working on the magazine *Shout!*, for her help and advice.

Set to a suitably swinging-Sixties soundtrack featuring a host of great songs of the era including 'These Boots Are Made for Walkin', 'To Sir, With Love', 'Diamonds Are Forever', 'Puppet On A String', 'Those Were The Days' and Lulu's 'Shout!' (which spent 13 weeks riding the charts), the show is soulful, uplifting and infectious, taking you back to the music, fashion and freedom of Britain's swinging Sixties.

Tickets for Shout! which is on from Tuesday, April 18 to Saturday, April 22, are available from the New Theatre box office on 029 2087 8887 or online at newtheatrecardiff.co.uk. We'll see you there!

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Sunday 12 noon - 4pm.

Gypsy Maker exhibition at Art Central

Billy Kerry's 'All Fur Coat' is set to show visitors the relationship between the artist and his material.

THE Vale of Glamorgan Council's Art Central Gallery is hosting an exhibition containing artwork commissioned by the Romani Cultural and Arts Company's (RCAC) Gypsy Maker project.

Billy Kerry's 'All Fur Coat' and Artur Conka's 'Rarebit Please!' are at Art Central in April, with both installations aiming to engage Gypsy Roma Traveller communities with the wider public.

Kerry said: "It's been fantastic, working with the RCAC, who have supported and guided me, while also allowing me to be very free with my work."

Artur Conka is one of the few Romani to have documented his community from behind the lens. Graduating from the University of Derby in photography and film-making, Conka's work has recorded how life in one of the poorest Romani communities in Slovakia has changed since its decline, and has featured in various international publications including Huffington Post, The Independent and Vice Magazine.

The opening takes place between 3pm–4.30pm, with free admission granted Monday to Friday, 9.30am–4.30pm thereafter, and 9.30am–3.30pm on Saturdays.

For more information on Art Central, visit http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/enjoying/arts_and_culture/Art-Central-Gallery.aspx.

Toy and train sale is back

THE ever-popular Toy and Train Sale returns to Penarth Leisure Centre this Saturday, April 8, 10.30am to 3pm.

Organiser Chris Dyer told The GEM: " Our venue at Cogan is ideal for a toy and train sale. It is large, easily accessed from all areas and has Cogan Railway Station virtually next door.

"There will be 120 tables run by more than 50 traders from all over the UK. The show is now firmly established on the national scene and traders travel from as far away as County Durham, East Anglia and Cornwall. It is always fully-booked by stall-holders well in advance."

Traders will be buying as well as selling and exchanging, and will also offer free valuations on a wide range of toy and train related items."

For more information, telephone 01643 702757 or 07966 694579, go to www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk.

It takes place at Penarth Leisure Centre, Andrew Road, Cogan, Cardiff, CF64 2NS.

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Welsh Autism petition gathers more support

A PETITION in support of a Welsh Autism charity, Autism Spectrum Connections Cymru, has gained over 100 signatures.

Aled Thomas of Penarth was inspired to launch the petition on learning about the Welsh Government's Autism Strategy which does not include funding this service.

The petition was launched online and quickly gathered support from local people.

One person who has benfited from the charity commented: "This charity is vital in order for me to function and live away from home at university as a person with Asperger's Syndrome."

Another described it "an invaluable and unique service".

Mr Thomas intends to present the petition to the Welsh Assembly Government's Petitions Committee in the hope that they will consider funding the charity.

In October 2016, despite cross-party support, an Autism Bill in the Senedd was voted down by Labour, including by the party's Cabinet Secretaries for health and public health.

Autism Spectrum Connections Cymru is a one stop shop which provides support for adults with autism in south east Wales.

Things it offers includes social groups, one-on-one support, creative activities, benefit support and help with employment for people who are in work as well as those who are looking for a job.

Mr Thomas said that this has had a significant influence in improving his own life: "I enjoy the extra understanding of my condition here which I don't find is easy to get in the outside world. I have found new hobbies and skills and have had the chance to socialise, make friends and to be understood and accepted for who I am."

Mr Thomas contributed to a recent ITV Wales news report on the topic of living with autism as part of Autism Awareness Week.

Aled Thomas of Penarth

Tuition and learning centre open in Barry

INSPIRED LEARNERS has opened at 161 Holton Road, Barry.

Hayley Rees of Inspired Leaners told The GEM: "We provide tuition, support and training to parents, carers and schools.

"We are currently running a parent dyslexia awareness course to 'empower' parents.

"We are going to be offering a parent course focusing on speech and language strategies."

The staff include a speech and language specialist teacher; a dyslexia specialist teacher; and educational psychologists.

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

WHEN TRIMMING TOENAILS IS ONLY PART OF THE JOB

WENDY'S Professional Toenail Cutting Service does what it says on the tin – with a whole lot more thrown in for free!

Yes, your toes will be trimmed by a fully qualified professional, but what is really on offer is companionship from someone who has great experience of looking after the elderly.

After working in the caring professions for many years, Wendy was recently trained by the NHS and has been calling on clients in the Bridgend, Porthcawl and surrounding area for some time now.

Word of mouth has meant that she has built up a number of satisfied customers.

When she pays a house call, she brings her previous experience to bear, and understands that for many elderly people, the social contact is as important as keeping their toes tidy!

An hour's visit costs £15, and Wendy carries references and her CRB check information with her.

For contact details, see the advert on this page.

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An expert's advice could avoid dispute

BRENDAN SWEENEY of David Prosser & Co Solicitors, writes:

It is estimated that 60 per cent of the UK population do not have a Will.

A Will takes effect on your death and is an instruction as to what is to happen to your estate.

Probate disputes and challenges to Wills are becoming a growth area, which often leads to substantial costs.

We now live in a world where family relationships are often very complex, and expert advice regarding the drafting of a Will is essential.

A professional advisor can also advise you in relation to inheritance tax, and how you plan to minimise potential liabilities to inheritance tax

It is important that people are fully aware of their duties and financial responsibilities when they make a Will, to ensure that they comply with the technicalities that are required to have a valid Will.

The cost of a professionally-drafted Will, after taking advice, is considerably less than the costs that can be incurred if there is a dispute regarding your financial affairs after your death.

Substantial costs can also be saved by taking professional advice early, and putting in place Powers of Attorney – whereby you appoint trusted people to make decisions about your property and financial affairs and health and welfare, if your lose capacity.

The people appointed are made fully aware of their rights and responsibilities.

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David Prosser & Co is the trading name of DP Law Limited.

April showers?

There are lovely jackets at Samantha B

IN this wonderful country we call home, a showerproof jacket is a summer wardrobe essential!

At Samantha B, we have a fantastic selection – from jackets for country walks to smarter city breaks, we have it covered.

Expect to see vibrant lime, pretty pastel, cool khaki, racy red and, of course, navy – we even have a really cleverly designed reversible jacket from Brandtex, two for the price of one!

If you would like a lighter jacket, come and have a look at our paca mac, perfect for travelling.

I am also delighted to report that we have some fab dresses with sleeves. If you're looking for a day dress or something more dressy, we have them – Pomodoro, Adini, Bianca, Brandtex, Signature and Gina Bacconi.

Whatever your wardrobe need, we have it – lovely summer knits from Olsen, Signature and Emreco, perfectly fitting trousers from Olsen, Bianca, Poppy, Brandtex, perfect jeans and crops or just a plain t-shirt. Call in and see for yourself!

If you would like to attend a charity fashion show, they are on: May 5 at Llancarfan Church; May 11 at Radyr; May 18, Cowbridge Choir; May 19 town twinning, Bridgend; May 30 Brynhill Golf Club. Call us on 01656 658388 for details.

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THIS amazing organisation aims to provide eyecare services and products, including eye tests, to those who struggle to leave the house unaccompanied due to medical, physical or mental health reasons.

They are NHS registered, so free eye tests will apply to those who are entitled to one. A wide selection of NHS frames is available as well as an impressive private range. In fact, there are hundreds of frames in stock to choose from.

Home Optika is also registered with the General Optical Council, College of Optometrists and Association of Optometrists and their expertise and experience are second to none.

For those who would rather not attend a high street practice, they also offer private eye examinations in the comfort of your home for the entire family.

Why choose Home Optika?

They are friendly, reliable, professional and experienced optometrists. They are based in south Wales and have specialist equipment and resources to provide the best eyecare service in the comfort of your home.

They can arrange a sight test at home for you within a day or two of point of contact. They source products and services locally, so you won't have to wait for weeks to have your glasses delivered and fitted for you.

Their prices are competitive and they offer a wide range of frames.

Check the website for more information about Home Optika, their services and products: www.homeoptika.com. Or contact them by phoning them on: 02920 213397, or 07510 969414.

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'Coastal Lives' to begin this Friday

Andy Bradshaw and Peter Knowles

THE BBC's 'Coastal Lives' TV series will follow the rich and varied lives of those working and living along the Glamorgan coast, including two Penarth residents Andy Bradshaw and Peter Knowles.

Andy and Peter are the joint owners of Hamptons and Shore, as well as being award-winning designers, and winners of Penarth Council's inaugural 'Outstanding Citizens' Award.

The popular pair were filmed over the spring and summer of 2016, culminating in their participation in Penarth's Downhill Derby where they won 'best dressed kart' and were placed a respectable third in the actual race.

Peter Knowles said: "We were thrilled when the BBC approached us about taking part in 'Glamorgan Coastal Lives' and we feel honoured to be part of the programme. Penarth is such a perfect place to live and work – we absolutely love it here – and it's great to see it being celebrated on the small screen."

The TV series will run for four weeks with the first episode airing on BBC 1 Wales, Friday, April 7 at 7.30pm and then the following three Fridays for episodes 2, 3 and 4.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D977.

- **£2,000: 344511**.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £2,500, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 485154, 307049, 713470, 213521, 970082, 512236, 560839, 149277, 817691, 258442, 576560, 446920, 385916, 465683, 886522, 250590, 297431, 846927, 135, 535839.
- **£5:** 323927, 249014, 417745, 854525, 328612, 695942, 492598, 113591, 140366, 182305, 123151, 831639, 244466, 496323, 905521, 471083, 667262, 743744, 219238, 356087, 655359, 780454, 215229, 924230, 393834, 719788, 859817, 312957, 814437, 826169, 150427, 684889, 337571, 132040, 147381, 541798, 754345, 752224, 437998, 433146, 817609, 560689, 183452, 297029, 749877, 860409, 838883, 558182, 576685, 783280, 203584, 643789, 691313, 521095, 939212, 829, 1904692, 1774225, 1892420, 5069.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

HEALTH DAY THIS SATURDAY IN THE TOWN HALL

THIS Saturday, April 8, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions are hosting a health day in the town hall from 10am to 1pm.

Spokeswoman Liz Evans explained: "There will be diabetic screening, Welsh Hearts will be attending to help with CPR and defibrillator training.

"The Stroke Association will also be there, along with members of the new Vale Stroke Group to let people know what the group is doing.

"There will be teas and coffees, so please come along."

Liz also pointed out that in the morning, the Lions will be holding a book sale outside Waitrose in the morning. Funds raised will go to a variety of causes including local ones.

THE MEN WHO BUILT BARRY

Retail entrepreneurs of the late 19th century Part III

LOCAL HISTORIAN LAURIE OWEN CONCLUDES HIS FASCINATING SERIES

THE final part of this trilogy is of a young man who came to Barry when his father Ben Evans became Pastor of the Tabernacle Welsh Congregational Church.

Daniel James Evans (c1884) was born in Llangadog, Carmarthenshire and in 1901 was living at 44 Tynewydd Road with four siblings and working as an ironmonger's assistant.

The following year he helped WH Hooper with the opening of a new shop at 81 Holton Road. In one photograph Dan was shown with a huge stock of hardware and ironmongery and by 1905, with the experience and confidence gained, he had taken over the business at just 22 years of age.

This was the beginning of a long and successful career in the town, with his premises spreading from 81 to 85 Holton Road and eventually with shops across the road, built on a reputation of giving personal service with quality staff.

Over the next few years he expanded his stock and in 1908 supplied the furniture and carpets to the new Accident and Surgical Hospital in Wyndham Street. Shortly after, the family moved to 36 Woodlands Road and in 1905 his sister Ceridwen died at 14 years of age.

In 1911 Dan married Catherine Mary Richard(s), who coincidentally had been living and working as a draper's assistant for at least 10 years in the large store of DL Evans at 104/6 Holton Road, which was opposite his own premises. They then had two sons, Gwynfor and Alcwyn and daughter Ceridwen.

When the Reverend Ben Evans died in 1918, his eldest son Dan was already secretary of the Grand Eisteddfod and the National Service Campaign.

Dan Evans only began his business adventure half way through the period which this story covers, but such was the impact his business had on those early settlers, including my own grandparents who came from Kent in 1908, it was felt that his early story should be briefly included.

As time went on, he would become very influential in the community, becoming Deputy Mayor in 1939, when the town became a borough.

For many years and for many families, 'Danny's' had been the focal point of Holton Road and towards the end, as we enjoyed our custard slice in the cafeteria, it was sad to see that there were often more staff than customers.

Finally in 2005, this institution closed its doors and left a large hole, which has not been filled.

Barnardo's Big Toddle hopes to raise big money

NURSERIES and playgroups across Wales raised more than £20,000 for Barnardo's, the UK's oldest and largest children's charity, during last year's animal-themed Big Toddle.

Children dressed up animals and took part in a half-mile walk to raise money for vulnerable children. Nurseries and parents are now signing up to take part in this year's Big Toddle, which runs from June 19- 25 and has the theme 'colours'.

The Big Toddle, which began as a one-off event in Porthcawl and has grown to become a national fundraising event, is marking its 20th anniversary this year by teaming up with Teletubbies, who are also celebrating their 20th anniversary.

To find out more and to register to Barnardo's Big Toddle visit www.bigtoddle.org.uk, follow Twitter @BigToddle or on Facebook/BigToddle.

3 good reasons

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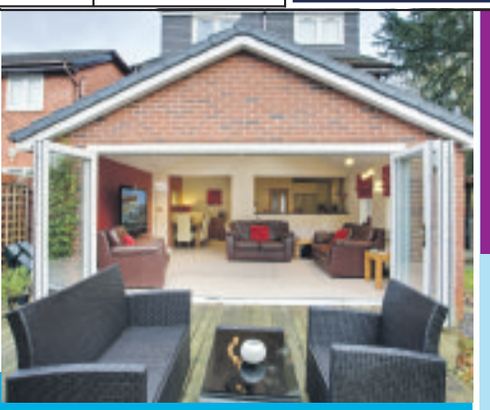

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At Securahome we always project manage the approval process and expect local authority planning permission to take at least 10 weeks, with sewer agreements often involving a similar timescale.

All things considered, once you've made the decision to go ahead, it could take three or four months before you can put your feet up and enjoy your new room. However, having invested the time to design, plan and build it properly we think you'll agree that your new conservatory or orangery will be more than worth the wait!

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Public can now submit film of traffic offences

FROM now on, members of the public will be able to submit footage and images of suspected road traffic offences being committed on the roads of south Wales.

Working in partnership with *Go Safe, Operation Snap* will provide a safe alternative way to share footage of offences seen by motorists. Road traffic offences targeted as part of the operation will include dangerous driving; driving without due care and attention; contravening solid white lines; mobile phone use; improper control of vehicle, and driving through traffic lights on red.

Assistant Chief Constable Jeremy Vaughan said: "The operation will enable our communities to help us assist in a key policing priority, to continue to keep the roads of south Wales safe.

"Our work with Go Safe is there to complement the service we provide to our communities and, as always, if people need to contact the police and want to talk to us immediately, they can call 101 or 999 in an emergency.

"Our officers will still be policing the roads in our force area 24 hours a day, seven days a week but we know that members of the public are keen to help, and I am pleased that with the support of Go Safe, we can provide an easier way to submit footage and images either while travelling as a passenger, or using the footage of 'dash cams' that can be submitted at a later date when the driver has finished their journey."

Chris Hume, partnership manager, GoSafe said: "Working with South Wales Police, Operation Snap will allow us to work together and help simplify the way motorists can report motoring offences. By visiting gosafe.org/contact-us/snap members of the public will be asked to complete a contact form; this will allow a roads policing officer to get in touch and review the footage or images captured.

"Once a full review has been carried out, the officer will provide further updates to individuals."

From March 2017 the Fixed Penalty Notice for using a handheld mobile phone while driving is £200 and six points.

In addition any new motorists (driving for less than two years) caught using a device behind the wheel will have their licence revoked meaning they will have to apply for a new provisional, and take and pass both the practical and theory driving test.

Valeways walkers enjoy 'the soaring red kites'

WITH four new walkers joining John's regulars, 13 Valeways walkers set off on a fine spring day from the Plough and Harrow at Monknash.

They crossed fields to arrive at Broughton by the Maltings, once a holiday home for children from the Valleys.

Walking towards West Monkton, red kites were spotted soaring overhead. The group then turned right to cross open farmland to Llan Road. A short walk brought them to a lane by a field full of spring lambs and after walking a few yards down the lane, they turned south to walk alongside Windmill covert and to reach a road.

Crossing straight over, the walkers came to Park Farm and, using the Valeways Millennium Heritage Trail, dropped through a valley to emerge from woodland, opposite St Donat's Church.

Skirting round the grounds of United World College and walking a few yards on the road the group crossed King George's field, so called in celebration of King George V's silver jubilee.

They carried on using the coast path on the cliff top to eventually arrive at a set of steps which led to the beach at St Donat's Bay.

The sun was shining now and a short stop was made here for coffee before setting off again up through woods and over fields to reach the lighthouses of Nash Point. Thanks to Paul and Judy, choughs were seen flying in the air currents from the cliffs.

It was down into Cwm Marcross and then up the other side to carry on along the coast, crossing several stiles before dropping steeply down into Cwm Nash, by which time everyone was looking forward to reaching the Plough and Harrow for food and drink, so the walk up the valley was fairly quick and refreshments were enjoyed by one and all.

Many thanks to the Plough and Harrow for the hospitality and the use of the car park.

JOHN TREBY
Valeways volunteer walk leader

The Princess Royal to attend Women in Wales Charity event

THE Princess Royal will be guest of honour at the Women in Wales Lunch Reception in the SSE SWALEC Stadium on Friday, April 28 to mark a quarter of a century of the 'Women in Wales Charity' raising money for Save the Children.

This year's guest speaker with close royal connections is entrepreneur, Cath Kidston.

The 'queen of florals' is being interviewed by Sue Brooks of *Desert Island Discs* about how, said a spokesperson, her "talent and drive transformed roses into riches".

Rachel Thomas, Chair of Women in Wales said: "We are extremely honoured to have The Princess Royal, Patron of Save the Children UK join us for this special occasion which is a sell-out this year with 500 guests, and we hope to raise a record amount for children in Wales."

Proceeds from the 2017 lunch go towards the 'Eat, Sleep, Learn, Play' programme in Wales.

For further details visit www.women inwales.org.uk.

All aboard the Barry Easter railway train!

JOHN BUXTON, the managing director of the Barry Tourist Railway, has announced that the Barry Tourist Railway will be operating Easter Bunny trains from Barry Island over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend (April 14 to 17). Every child travelling receives a free Lindt chocolate Easter bunny or a soft toy.

John told The GEM: "Our military museum and cafe will be open on all four days too.

"The famous fun fair will be operating as well so there are lots of good reasons to visit Barry Island over the weekend.

"Huge improvements have been made to the visitor facilities at Barry Island over recent years by the local authorities, Henry Danter, Marco's and the Barry Tourist Railway, to name but a few. More special events are also now taking place on the Island, a resort that is definitely on the up and up!

"Barry Tourist Railway will be operating a 40 minute 'out-and-back' journey from Barry Island Station at 11.35am, 1.10pm, 2.10pm and 3.10pm each day over the weekend, including a guided tour around the railway depot where our vintage trains are maintained and refurbished. So, come along, enjoy the ride and take a look behind the scenes of a working heritage railway," he added.

Fun for all the family and no need to book – just turn up and go.

For more information contact John Buxton, Barry Tourist Railway on 01446 748816; email: john.buxton@cambriantransport.com; or www.barrytouristrailway.co.uk

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vale AM's surgery

VALE AM Jane Hutt will hold a surgery on April 8 from 10am – 11am at Barry Citizens Advice Bureau, 119 Broad Street.

No appointment necessary.

Table top sale

THERE will be a table top sale in Peterston-Super-Ely church and community hall on Saturday, April 8 from 10am – 12pm; entry is free. To book a table and further details call Pat on 01446 760267, tables are £5.

This is in addition to the usual village market which is held on the second Saturday of every month from 10am – 12noon, selling homemade cakes, preserves, produce, plants and a very extensive collection of books. Coffee and teas wil be served. All proceeds to the improvement and maintenance of the hall.

Toy and train sale

THE Cardiff Toy and Train sale takes place on Saturday, April 8 at 10.30am to 3pm in Penarth Leisure Centre, Andrew Road, Cogan (CF64 2NS). For further information, call 01643 702757 or 07966 694579; www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk.

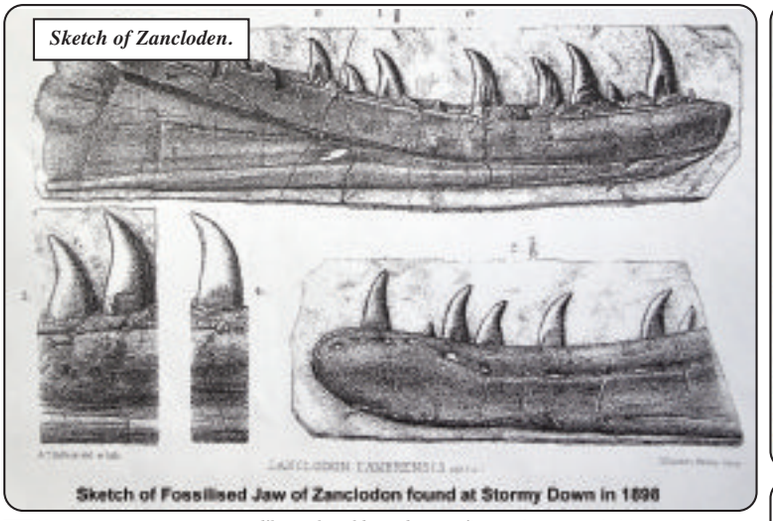
AM takes part in 'lifesaving session' at Senedd

VALE AM Jane Hutt took part in an 'interactive life-saving session' at the Senedd on March 30 and added her backing to a campaign promoting first aid learning in schools.

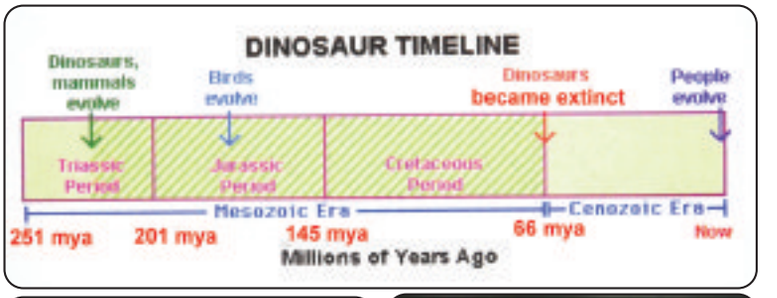
Ms Hutt, along with other AMs, joined the British Red Cross and young volunteers to learn how to perform cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.

A 'DRAGON' LIVED AT BRIDGEND

– but maybe we should be talking about Dai-nosaurs!



Sketch of Fossilised Jaw of Zanclodon found at Stormy Down in 1898



Pangaea Supercontinent in the Triassic Period

Actual Fossilised Jaw of Stormy Down Zanclodon in the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff

IN using the above headline, I have applied a little bit of poetic licence, as the title 'DRAGON LIVED AT BRIDGEND' was first applied to a report in an unidentified newspaper published on February 12, 1949.

As neither Stormy Down nor Bridgend existed as a place name 150 million years ago, the time to which the article alludes, I do not think that the choice of names in the title should concern the reader unduly.

The 1949 article was a report on a lecture that Dr WE Swinton of the Department of Geology of the British Museum, had given the previous evening at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.

In his talk, Dr Swinton had referred to the dragon appearing on Wales' national flag as being a purely fabulous beast, but stated that Wales was credited at least with one real dinosaur which roamed Stormy Down, near Bridgend 150 million years ago.

He concluded that this ancient inhabitant of Glamorgan was the only one in Wales of which proof had been found at that time.

The ancient inhabitant to which Dr Swinton was referring was a megalosaur dinosaur, and as we now know, much further evidence of the existence of dinosaurs has since been found in Glamorgan.

Incidentally, Glamorgan is the only place in Wales where rocks of the Triassic Period (251-201 million years ago) and Jurassic Period (201-145 million years ago) crop-out to reveal the fossilised remains of dinosaurs, as shown in the accompanying Geological Map provided by SR Howe of the Geologists' Association – South Wales Group.

In 1898, the fossilised impressions of part of the lower jaw of a meat-eating dinosaur were found at Stormy Down. This jaw is now known to be from the Late Jurassic-late Triassic Period (210-201 million years ago) and much older than quoted by Dr Swinton.

The jaw is typical of Zanclodon (meaning – 'sickle-tooth'), a strongly built, bipedal carnosaur (flesh-lizard) with a large head, short arms, powerful legs and a long stiff tail that balanced the short body.

Zanclodon had sharp blade-like teeth and long claws on its toes and fingers; a creature to be avoided at all costs! The beautiful preserved remains of the fossilised lower jaw, which are on display in the National Museum of Wales at Cardiff, are shown in the accompanying photograph and illustrate that the material forming the jaw bone has been destroyed during fossilisation, leaving only a hollow mould of the dentary bone in the sandstone.

Initially called Newtonsaurus after TH Newton who reported its finding, or Zanclodon cambrensis because its fossilised jaw remains were found in Wales, this as yet undescribed genus of dinosaur was more recently referred to a Megalosaurus cambrensis – although there is still debate about its true affinities.

Dinosaurs lived on this earth for some 155 million years and became extinct 66 million years before Homo sapiens was to appear and evolve.

These creatures lived during a time called the Mesozoic Era: the Age of Reptiles which, as we can see from the Dinosaur timeline, covered three ages: the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods. During the Mesozoic Era, the dinosaurs lived on a very large continent called Pangaea.

As shown in the diagram, during the Triassic Period, Pangaea was a supercontinent effectively combining all of the landmasses of the world. This began to split up during the Jurassic Period, with the perpetual movement of continents slowly drifting towards the current configuration.

The word dinosaur is a relatively new word in the English language and was coined in 1841 by palaeontologist, Sir Richard Owen. It is derived from two Greek words 'deinos' and 'sauros' which when combined together literally translate as 'terrible lizard'.

Many names were given to the remains and fossils of these great creatures before 1841, the most popular of which was 'dragon!' The Chinese world evolves around dragons and their word for dinosaur is 'Konglong' which literally translates to 'Terrible Dragon!'

We are back to Dr Swinton's opening statement where he refers to Y Ddraig Goch: The Red Dragon. The red dragon itself has been associated with Wales for centuries, though the origins of the adoption of the dragon symbol is now lost in history and myth.

A possible theory is that the Romans brought the emblem to what is now Wales during their occupation of Britain in the form of the Draco standards borne by the Roman cavalry, itself inspired by the symbols of the Dacians or Parthians. The Red Dragon was not adopted as the official flag for Wales until 1959.

Would it not be plausible that when Sir Richard Owen was coining his word for the creatures he really meant to spell the word as Dai-nosaur?

Certainly, since Arthur Conan Doyle put pen to paper in publishing his scientific romance entitled 'The Lost World' in 1912, interest in dinosaurs has steadily increased over the years.

Today, every child knows about dinosaurs thanks to the publicity given to new finds made around the world and to the wonderful animation technology used in films like *Jurassic Park* and television programmes such as *Walking with Dinosaurs*.

The interest is further fuelled with magazines, books, toys and realistic models. Where will it end?

I am indebted to Cindy Howells, Curator of Palaeontology at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, for proof-reading and editing this article and for providing a number of the images used for the illustrations.

The go-ahead to build RAF Stormy Down was obtained in 1937 with work commencing on the construction of the aerodrome in March 1938. It was commissioned as an operational station the following year on April 24, 1939.

To celebrate the history and life and times of RAF Stormy Down, this is the first article in a series that not only covers this topic, but the whole history of Stormy Down, from the dawn of time up to the present day.

The second article, entitled 'Stormy Down Through Time: The Era of the Dinosaur in Glamorgan', will take a look at the other interesting dinosaur finds that have been made in the area.

REPORT BY KEITH E MORGAN

Sker WI visit the 'Good Old Days' of music hall

ON March 29, Sker WI hosted the Glan-y-Mor annual link meeting at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, an opportunity for WI members to come together and this year, it was the usual mix of fun and good company.

The guest speakers, John Mason and his wife Carol, entertained us with a selection of 'Stories that had to be told!' These included 'The Hermit of Kenfig' Ben Evans, and hilarious stories from Mr Mason's father David, 'Toilets I Have Known and Loved.'

After refreshments had been served, Sker WI members performed a musical tribute to Old Time Music Hall. Decked out in their Victorian finery, the choir led everyone in a singsong of traditional favourites.

Sker WI president Nora Williams called on Mynydd Cynfig WI's president to give the vote of thanks.

Sker WI meets at 7pm on the second Thursday of the month at St David's Church Hall, Nottage Village. Visitors are always welcome and we would love to meet you, so come along and say hello!

CB

For all the latest news from your area - glamorgan-gem.co.uk

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Popular retail destination is in UK's top five independent shopping areas and...

HIGH STREET SHOPPING QUARTER WILL MAKE YOUR EASTER EXTRA SPECIAL!

For all your carpet needs and ranges to suit all budgets there's no need to look further than Richard Jones Carpets on Broad Street.

HIGH STREET Traders are well known across south Wales for their show-piece community events and every Easter Saturday provide the colour and excitement of the Bonnet Parade.

Mums and dads, grandparents and guardians enjoy bringing along youngsters decked out in their home made bonnets.

Fay Blakeley of High Street Traders told The GEM: "The parade this Easter Saturday, April 15, will begin at 10.45am at Café No 5. Following the normal tradition, the youngsters will parade up and down both sides of High Street."

The traders have chosen to start this year's parade at a different location, Café No 5, to signal their support for one of the great local causes. ValePlus, a Barry-based charity, runs the café, providing experience and skills opportunities for people with learning difficulties.

Fay explained that people of all ages are welcome to take part in the parade.

"The categories will be nought to five, six to 11 and 12 to 100! The winners of each category will win prizes."

Recently, the High Street area was recognised as one of the UK's top five local shopping areas by the Local Data Company for its great independent shop provision.

The traders have an ongoing campaign to promote what's great about the High Street shopping quarter (this includes High Street, Island Road, Market Street and Broad Street). It is currently providing 101 reasons to visit the area via social media.

Reasons such as the following – it is 100 per cent independent; you can buy everything for a top Sunday roast locally; are you a mother-of-the-bride? then there are four ladies' fashion shops; why not learn a new skill in High Street? Answer: Some businesses provide special classes in particular skills.

Readers can keep up to date with all the news from the shopping area through the Facebook Page 'High Street Shopping Quarter' or via Twitter @HighStShop

Easter wouldn't be Easter on High Street, Barry, without popping in to Tony and the staff in Vic Hopkins & Son to order that special Welsh leg of lamb. Tony told The GEM: "With today's working families in mind we now offer an extensive range of 'Ready Meals' and 'food to go', freshly cooked every day including freshly roasted chickens to order, just give us a call! We've also extended our opening times to 5.30pm Monday to Friday, so you can pop in on the way home from work. We offer an out of hours delivery service Monday to Thursday. Orders placed via our website or Facebook page before 3pm can be delivered when you get home from work. No more having to put up with supermarket meat."

It's only the very best @HopkinsButchers – the five star High Street butcher!

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HAPPY EASTER
from High Street, Broad Street, Island Road and Market Street

FAMILIES AND FRIENDSHIP AT THE HEART OF WEST END BARRY

ABOVE:
Wendy and the staff at Cwtch Coffee can guarantee everyone a warm welcome.

ABOVE:
Fay Blakeley of the gift boutique Homemade Wales on Island Road is modelling a popular 'Barry Island apron' along with a matching tea towel. There are dozens of other delightful Welsh-themed gifts in Homemade Wales to choose from.

LEFT:
Food for Thought has been providing great food and great service on High Street for over 33 years. The business has also supported numerous charities over the years. Leroy (back left) has just volunteered to have a 'back wax' for Ty Hafan. A brave man indeed!

LOCAL traders emphasise people can happily spend a whole afternoon or even a day browsing the array of shops in the High Street area.

People are lured to Barry's West End due to the fact that independent shops rely on skilful buying to survive and source something 'that little bit different'.

Nicola at **Miss Holmes** is renowned for her ability to bring the very top names to High Street and she's done it again. This time with *Choconchoc*. The company was featured on TV when master baker Mary Berry visited its premises to have a go at making the high quality sculptural chocolates using a unique layering process.

What's better than a *Choconchoc* Easter present?

Nicola stocks a host of top brands like the sparkly and collectable Annie Haak jewellery, and one customer Jane comments on Facebook of Miss Holmes: "My favourite shop. You will always find the perfect gift."

Bryls Boutique stocks the latest ladieswear, coats, jewellery, watches and handbags.

Ann, the owner, and her staff always provide customers with a warm welcome and good advice.

One of the most popular brands is the classic Ugg boots, but there are other top names too including Estella Bartlett, French Connection, Great Plains, Joules, Darling, Sandwich, Masai, and Yaya.

If you want more information on Bryls Boutique, please go to the Facebook page.

Food for Thought is your family friendly local deli on High Street.

For many years the Keeble family have been serving up some of the best foods in town.

The staff are keen to support worthwhile causes too, and Leroy has agreed to have his back waxed for charity!

He explained: "I wantd to do something for Ty Hafan because it is a local charity."

Over 400 people on social media loved the idea.

His dad Nathan has promised there will be 'before' and 'after' pictures for everyone to see!

Just across the road from Food for Thought is **Jade Boutique**. Jane James has owned four shops in Barry's West End over a 32 year period, all of them providing top fashions for the stylish woman.

Jade Boutique is located at 74 High Street after Jane relocated from number 89 two years ago.

The great thing about Jane is that she gets to know all her customers and can advise on the best outfit or item of clothing

Her spring collection is in full swing and she is well known for her vast range of fascinators.

If you are in search of something quintessentially Welsh or unique, Island Road is a 'must visit'.

Homemade Wales is a haven of unusual and quality gifts for all occasions, including stylish souvenirs of Barry.

Fay Blakeley, the owner explained: "I'm passionate about my home town and believe that gifts from the town should be stylish, innovative and good quality.

"We work with a number of local photographers, creating beautiful prints and cards of the area. We also commission our own range of handmade textiles celebrating Barry Island, such as aprons, tea towels and cushions.

"Our latest collaboration has seen us license the reproduction of Ordnance Survey maps of the area for use on quality gifts for the home, such as sandwich trays and mugs."

Fay added: "Many of my regular customers bring their visiting family and friends to Homemade Wales, confident that they'll find something different and local to remind them of their visit to the town."

Next door, Rob Linder, who has been repairing and making jewellery for 20 years, has his work area visible at **Bespoke Jewellery Workshop**.

People who are browsing the items in the Island Road showroom can watch Rob and his staff carrying out repairs, and creating new pieces of original jewellery.

He and his wife Irene also own **Brooklinde Jewellery** based at the High Street arcade in Cardiff. In fact the Cardiff store recently won an online 'Jeweller of the Year' competition.

The great thing is that if someone has their own design for a special gift, Rob and the staff can bring it to life. Just pop in to Island Road with your idea, or even a drawing, and they will work with you to create an unforgettable gift for a loved-one.

Bespoke Jewellery Workshop will be open on Good Friday, Easter Saturday, but closed on the Sunday and Easter Monday.

For more information call the Barry store on 01446 732017 or the Cardiff one on 02920 232854.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

Bespoke Jewellery Workshop are craftspeople dedicated to creating that unforgettable gift.

Miss Holmes has hundreds of gifts from top names including the 'Choconchoc' range that will make a very special Easter gift.

RIGHT:
Nicola Petersen owner of Miss Holmes, the shop for exclusive gifts.

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HAPPY EASTER
from High Street, Broad Street, Island Road and Market Street

So much on offer in High Street...

LEFT: The spring collection has arrived at Jade Boutique, so pop in and see Jane now.

For MoT, servicing and repairs Griff's Garage on Broad Street is a convenient place to drive in your car, leave it in their hands and go for a browse round the High Street shops. For any questions and to book in, call the staff on 01446 752742.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

And where can you enjoy a welcome rest during your shopping tour of Barry West End?

Everyone is guaranteed a warm welcome at 'Cwtch Coffee' which is celebrating its fourth anniversary.

It's the perfect place to have a pit-stop from all that shopping or to meet up with a friend for a chin-wag.

Wendy and Leanne have got everything down to a fine art – whether it's all sorts of coffees, lattes and other drinks to breakfasts, paninis and baguettes.

Two weeks ago, the ladies even hosted a special champagne breakfast, well worth getting up for!

The shop has lots of loyal regulars who Wendy and Leanne know by name.

If you visit, you can be guaranteed a warm welcome.

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facebook.com/homemadewales

Celebrate Butterflies anniversary this week

BUTTERFLIES is a unique gift shop that has been situated on the High Street for nine years.

The owner Jodie explained: "We are the official stockist in Barry of Yankee Candles, Goose Creek Candles and Bomb Cosmetics.

"We offer a very high standard of customer service, personal shopping on Facebook and in store.

"We also offer local and UK delivery and all our items are professionally gift wrapped for free!

"We would like to invite you to join us in celebrating our anniversary and as a 'thank you' we are providing lots of offers and promotions throughout the store on Friday, April 7 and Saturday, April 8.

"There will also be lots of new stock at the launch."

Jodie and her fab team would like to thank all their many customers for all the support over the years.

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Vale goes mad for tennis festival fun!

VALE Tennis Academy welcomed dozens of families to its free school tennis festivals over the last two weekends at three of its venues across the Vale of Glamorgan: Penarth Lawn Tennis Club (Rectory Road), Llantwit Major Tennis Club (next to the rugby ground), and Barry Community Tennis Club (Millwood Courts).

Following hugely popular taster sessions for over 1,000 children in reception, and years 1 and 2 in a number of schools throughout the county, festivals were held to give families a flavour of tennis coaching programmes and activities in a tennis club setting.

With a variety of on court activities provided by LTA qualified coaches, around 200 children (and their families, if they chose to join in) enjoyed building their physical literacy skills and developing their tennis knowledge and ability, and, courtesy of Tennis Wales and Sytner Mini, received a free gift and certificate of participation.

Vale Tennis Academy offers a comprehensive coaching programme for all ages and abilities of player, and each of its venues also has a social programme available for players to get-together more informally both on court and off.

For more information please visit www.valetennisacademy.co.uk or pop along to one of our venues and speak to one of our friendly coaching team.

PM

The Barry and District Ladies Skittle League

LATEST results for the Barry and District Ladies Skittle League are:

First division: SV Gals (V Pycroft, J Richards 29) 289; Allsorts (S Tierney 33) 290; Pila Palas (S Bennett, J Griffiths 31) 317; Cigar Ladies (L James, L Webb, J Smith 31) 311; Family and Friends (G Brown 24) 216, Bobby's Girls (G Toogood 21) 194; Baker's Dozen (S Howe 30) 275, Family Affair (S John 30) 278; Barry Stars (W Phillips 34) 341, Coclot Ladies (M Snelling 36) 313; Special Angels (C Thomas 26) 232, Coppers (J Ward 24) 237.

Second division: Castle Bandits (E Evans 30) 234, Merry Makers (M Payne, J Baker 24) 239; Roller Coasters (S Jones 28) 231, SV Lights (P Snook 23) 209; Cad Con Fillies (C Pearce 26) 223, Castaways (J Byrne 25) 217; After Eights (E Carmichael 32) 196, Fallen Angels (N Edwards 32) 315; Breakaways (C Smith, C Parfitt, J Dawkins 30) 288; Clickies (E Walters 33) 222; Witchill Widows (L Spyrou 35) 300, Airways Angels (E Jones 31) 305.

Third division: Little Devils (L Hughes, S Harrhy, P Weston, J H Jones 23) 243, Twilights (K Nveit 25) 211; Vixens (N Sheppard 30) 269, Etcetera (J Baker, J Barton 24) 249; Rugby Triers (N Ray 28) 249, Witches (R Pope 28) 239; Hill Billies (I Dimond, G Moorcraft 32) 293, La Belles (S Peacock 35) 302; Challengers (A Richards 36) 327, S V Ladies (C Griffiths 34) 295; Westenders (M Condon 28) 258, Uptown Girls (L Hobbs 28) 252.

Fourth division: Off The Rails (G Griffiths 25) 239, Witchill Wanderers (V Kerslake 28) 154; Persuaders (C Organ, F Organ 24) 225, Liberals (S Boyd 22) 116; Aristocats (M Atkinson 27) 230, Socialites (J Parker 25k) 187; Living On A Spare (R Britton 30) 293, Boozy Birds (C Connell 30) 265.

'Decline and Fall' proves Welsh film-making is on the up!

Decline and Fall was filmed last year at locations around Wales.

UK Technology Centre Ffilm Factory 35 is 'thrilled' to be among *Decline and Fall's* filming locations.

Wales's flourishing film industry will once again be on display this week when the all-star adaptation of *Decline and Fall* returns to our screens.

Evelyn Waugh's comedy novel is set to appear on BBC One again on Friday night starring comedian Jack Whitehall and *Desperate Housewives* star Eva Longoria.

The TV mini series adapted from the 1928 novel, which also stars actor David Suchet, Tim Pigott-Smith and Nickolas Grace, is being brought to screens thanks to Fortitude producer Matthew Bird and writer James Wood.

In a further sign of confidence in the Welsh film and TV industry, the highly anticipated production was partly filmed just 20 minutes outside Cardiff.

Among its filming locations were Castell Coch, Pinewood's Welsh Studio, Llantwit Major, and Sony UK Technology Centre (UK TEC) in Pencoed.

Sony UK TEC, which produces thousands of professional HD and 4K broadcast cameras annually, has recently become a beacon for high-profile productions.

This is thanks to the success of its Ffilm Factory 35, which has hosted TV shows including *Dr Who*, American historical drama *Will*, and film thriller *The Chamber.*

The 30,000 sq ft facility boasts easy access to the M4, on-site security 24 hours seven days a week, access via four loading bays, a variety of on-site services including a canteen for catering, space to house unit base and crew parking, a cinema room for screening, and on-site post-production facilities.

Sony UK TEC director of professional services Gerald Kelly said it was "thrilling" for the Pencoed site to consistently be chosen among filming locations for some of the biggest shows of the moment.

He said: "Since launching the Ffilm Factory in 2015 we have been blown away with the incredible response from the British and Welsh film industry.

"The facility has proved to be a huge success and we have been delighted to welcome some of the biggest productions of the moment to Pencoed.

"We were extremely excited to host the cast and crew of *Decline and Fall*, which we will all be watching.

"I feel that the continued interest not just in our Ffilm Factory, but for filming in Wales, is an encouraging sign for the industry and we are thrilled to be a part of its success."

'Walk of Christian Witness' takes place on Good Friday

PEOPLE from the Churches of Barry will join together on Good Friday for the annual two-mile 'Walk of Christian Witness' through the town.

Father Robert Parrish, Rector of the Barry Churches of St Paul's and Merthyr Dyfan, and organiser of the walk, said today: "Everyone, children and adults, is warmly invited to join in at the start at the Parade Gardens at 12 noon or anywhere en route."

The walk is being supported by churches of all denominations in Barry and will include children from church Sunday schools and youth clubs. Leaving the Parade Gardens at 12 noon, the walk will travel via Broad Street to arrive at King Square in time for a short service for Good Friday at 1.30pm.

The wooden cross, made by Barry College, will be carried in the procession to re-enact Christ's carrying of his cross on the way to his crucifixion.

This is the sixth year of the Barry Walk of Christian Witness, which first began in 2012.

Further information from Father Robert Parrish on 735943.

Bridgend Town Twinning group 'is still looking to the future'

BRIDGEND Town Twinning Committee has now become an autonomous self-governing body to be known as Bridgend Town Twinning Association.

A spokesman said: "The aim of the association is to continue its successful links with its two European twin towns, Villenave d'Ornon in France and Langenau in Germany, and its Friendship Link with Hechtel-Eksel in Belgium.

"At the Annual General Meeting on March 24 a few new positions were filled in administrative roles. The former committee would like to thank Mrs Carol James for the years of service she has given this organisation as a faithful and trusted chairperson, always putting the interests of twinning at the top of her list.

"The association is now looking forward with a positive mind-set to continue fulfilling its objectives in friendship, educational, cultural and economic links."

Last week Dawnswyr Penybont visited Villenave d'Ornon in France as part of their celebration for St Patrick's Day. This was a successful visit showcasing Welsh folk dancing, which was fully appreciated and enjoyed by the twin town in France.

On April 22, a group of French students from Villenave d'Ornon will visit Bridgend to experience Welsh education and culture. These students will be hosted by pupils of Bryntirion and Brynteg Comprehensive schools.

The spokesman explained: "A full week of activities has been planned by the Town Twinning Association for these students, including visits to the Principality Stadium, Big Pit, St Fagan's Museum of Welsh Life and Dan-yr-Ogof caves.

"The association is very grateful to all the families who will be hosting these young people during their stay in Bridgend.

"On June 1 the Tabernacle Music Society, together with members of the Town Twinning Association, travel to Bordeaux to take part in a European Music Festival at Villenave d'Ornon along with musicians from Germany, Italy, Portugal and France.

"While there they will be taking part in two days of concerts and also have the opportunity of sightseeing in the beautiful regions surrounding Bordeaux.

"Two more visits are being arranged for later in the year. The first with our Friendship link town of Hechtel Eksel and the second when Cor Bro Ogwr visit Langenau in Germany, where they will put on a number of concerts."

He added: "To dispel any doubts the residents of Bridgend may have, Bridgend Town Twinning is still an active and forward-thinking organisation who look for your support.

We invite anyone to become a member of our association, attend our meetings and join in our social events."

A den of iniquity at local friendship club?

IT was nice to welcome yet another new member to our Friendship Club for our March meeting.

I hope she didn't think she had come to a 'den of iniquity' when the popular Rummikub and Triominos were put aside and instead it was dominoes and card games (but thankfully no money exchanged hands).

For those who liked the challenge of words, it was 'Up Words'; but from the noise and laughter coming from the games, it was an afternoon of fun for everyone.

Then of course our meeting finished with the usual afternoon tea of homemade sandwiches and cakes.

For our April meeting we will be welcoming John Winton whose talk is entitled 'Have I got Pews for You'.

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of every month when we have a variety of activities, so if you or someone you know would be interested, please call 01656 668446 to find out more.

PAT SMITH (Leader)

Free to enter Porthcawl Easter egg hunt

FIVE hundred plastic eggs will be hidden throughout Porthcawl's streets this Saturday, April 8 for an egg-stravagant Easter egg hunt!

Between 11am and 3pm, you can join the search for the coloured eggs that will be placed on John Street, Dock Street, Well Street, Lias Road, Station Hill (New Road), the seafront end of Mary Street, and on the Esplanade between the Grand Pavilion and Cosy Corner.

Each child taking part is asked to 'please only take one egg' – all of which will win a prize. Once found, simply crack open your egg to find instructions on how to claim. Three lucky hunters will win the top prize of a giant Easter egg!

The free event will also feature music and entertainment, while the Easter bunny and his friends will be out on the streets helping you to hunt down those eggs. Children can also enjoy egg-stra fun on the day by taking part in a competition to design their own Easter eggs.

The Porthcawl Easter Egg Hunt is being supported by Bridgend County Borough Council, Porthcawl Town Council, and the Porthcawl Chamber of Trade.

Wheatley's Free Fire is well worth getting caught up in!

THERE are few more exciting directors around at the moment than Ben Wheatley.

Ever since his debut *Down Terrace* in 2009, Wheatley has bounced from genre to genre, the only constant being the quality of the films never dipping below superb.

His sixth film, *Free Fire*, sees him tackle the world of action, specifically gun shoot-outs.

The brief synopsis is that the story is set in Boston in 1978, where a meeting in a deserted warehouse between two gangs (comprising among others, Brie Larson, Cillian Murphy, Sharlto Copley, Armie Hammer and Jack Reynor) in an arms deal which goes south, and turns into a shootout where no-one is guaranteed to be walking away...

Given that Ben Wheatley's films have been so tricky to pin down in terms of which genre he's working in, it seemed a case of when, and not if, he would tackle an action film.

Free Fire's simplistic set-up gives him the scope to use his own style within the format, and he certainly succeeds in an exemplary effort that maintains pace throughout and makes for a satisfying and joyous watch.

The plot's heavy lifting takes place, and is done and dusted, within the first 20 minutes or so – a gun deal between the IRA and an arms dealer goes awry when two opposing men discover they have history from the night before.

A shot is fired and all hell breaks loose.

What follows is balletic action (shot through with a gritty realism), laugh-out-loud humour and people getting shot at regular intervals.

If that makes it seem reductive it both is and it isn't – that is indeed what happens for the remainder of the film, but in the hands of a director as skilled as Ben Wheatley, your attention never wavers, caught up in the maelstrom that engulfs the characters as alliances are formed, broken apart and duplicitous dealings take place.

Wheatley co-wrote the script with wife and regular collaborator Amy Jump, and for those who have watched Wheatley's previous films (and if not, why not?) the rich seam of dark humour they mine is ever-present here.

by GARETH JAMIESON

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In what is essentially a 90-minute Mexican stand-off, the script plays out as one long action scene, the beats carefully laid out allied to characters that we learn just enough about to engage with.

You can imagine each of the actors has a detailed backstory of who their character is and their lives away from the warehouse, but what is cleverly shown on screen is just enough to keep you invested in them, drip feeding you parts of their character as the film progresses.

While all dangerous people, their malevolence is never overly amped up – instead it's played lightly as characters wind each other up and build tensions that will come boiling to the surface once the bullets start flying.

The ensemble are all superb, all deftly realised by some skilled performers, whether they are established Hollywood stars like Brie Larson, Cillian Murphy and Armie Hammer, or homegrown actors like Michael Smiley, Jack Reynor and Sam Riley.

They all bring something to the table, but stand-out is Sharlto Copley's turn as South African arms dealer Vernon. With his fancy haircut, Savile Row suits and suitably cheesy catchphrase "Watch and Vern", Copley is excellent in a sea of superb performances.

Visually Wheatley conveys the grit and realism of the 1970s, the gun violence feeling realistic rather than stagey – bullets leave their mark, gun shots are as haphazard as you would expect from people clinging desperately to their lives – yet those familiar with his work will recognise his small touches.

More directly accessible than his other films, *Free Fire* is the work of a director confident and assured – as straightforward as it may seem, its simplicity is key in creating a film that is funny, captivating and hugely watchable.

VERDICT – Ben Wheatley's unique take on an American gangster staple, *Free Fire's* 90-minute shootout is sublimely realised. The script is superb in its economy,

Wheatley's direction is efficient and realistic and the performances across the board are superb. *Free Fire* certainly hits its target in one of the best films of the year so far.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Reservoir Dogs* (1992), *High Rise* (2015)

Vernetta at Foxy's

From April 8 to 22 there is an exhibition of work by the artist Vernetta at Foxy's delicatessen in Penarth, offering audiences a central display of three-dimensional cameo/driftwood pieces.

Her second project at the moment is the creation of a book: 'Walking the Waves' containing information and images regarding the piers of Wales. 34 artists/craftspersons have submitted details of their work (and of themselves) with a digital print showing their images, and giving a description of the approach they have used.

Appropriate images and information could still be included and the deadline for this is June 1.

Further information can be obtained by calling Vernetta on 01446 730639. *Vernetta O'Connor www.vernetta.co.uk*

VO

What's on, and where?

Easter Family Fun with GVS

ALL are welcome for crafts, celebration and tea at Bethel Baptist Church, Barry on Saturday, April 15 from 4pm – 6pm.

Diabetes event

THE next meeting is on Tuesday, April 18 in the Board Room at Llandough Hospital, Penarth from 7.30pm – 9pm.

The speaker will be Ian Jones, optician, who will speak on eye problems associated with diabetes and general eye care advice. Anyone welcome!

Sponsored walk in Sully

THE Saving Sully group are holding a sponsored walk on Sunday, April 30 meeting at the Jubilee Hall at 10.30am, and will commence their walk at 11am.

The marshalled route will be to Cosmeston Lakes and returning via Swanbridge where refreshments will be provided at the Seashore Grill; then along the new coastal footpath back to the Jubilee hall.

The walk is to raise funds to provide defibrillators for Sully, Swanbridge, and Lavernock. Any donations also welcome for this worthwhile cause.

All ages are welcome to take part, parents with prams, pushchairs and dogs on leads.

Sponsorship forms are available from the Jubilee Hall, The Sully Club Restaurant, Sully post office, The Old School, Sully School, and SSG website. Donations can also be made to SSG via Paypal at website www.savingsully.org.uk.

KPC Youth charity golf event

ON Friday, June 23 KPC Youth & Community are holding their annual charity golf day at the Grove Golf Club, Porthcawl.

Entry for teams of four is £160 per team (but we are offering an 'Early Bird' deal of £140 for any entries/payments received by April 30). Entry includes coffee on arrival, golf fees and a buffet meal following the round of golf.

Sponsorship is also sought for raffle/auction prizes or £50 to sponsor a hole. For team entry forms/more details call Alison on 01656 749219; kpcyouth@hotmail.com.

Woodham Road Industrial Estate

Diamond Repair Centre provides a top service at affordable prices

DIAMOND Repair Business is a family-run concern by a former BMW employee bringing all the same service at a fraction of the cost of main dealers.

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Diamond Repair Centre is a fully operational BMW-qualified accident repair centre catering for all aspects of vehicle paint repairs; and it is *'all insurance companies compliant'*.

John added: "We have staff with over 28 years of experience on all makes of vehicles. All our work is undertaken to the highest of standards. We also serve many garages and car sale showrooms within the Vale area with specialist services."

For any help or quotes, call us here to help: 01446 700780, mobile 07989 425 885.

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LEE AVEN, the owner of Avens Autos, has 17 years of mechanical experience.

Lee qualified at Hartnell VW/Audi Cardiff and worked there for four years, and was then was employed at Sytner BMW Cardiff for six years.

He then moved to a family-run garage in Dinas Powys which specialised in repairs and restoration of classic Jaguars.

Lee started Avens Autos two years ago and he explained: "At Avens Autos, we carry out vehicle repairs of more or less any kind.

"We also do motorcycle repairs – anything with an engine, more or less!

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FILCO market

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Yorkie Mug Egg 192g
KitKat Chunky Mug Egg 180g

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Mars Large Egg 280g | **Snickers** Large Egg 275g

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Pot Noodle Bombay Bad Boy Chilli Egg 65g

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Green & Blacks Milk/Dark Collection 365g | **Thorntons** Fudge Brownie/Lemon Meringue/Pecan Pie 338/342/350g
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(Varieties as Stocked)

FILCO market

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Filco Supermarkets, 19 Boverton Road, Llantwit Major. CF61 1XZ Tel: 01446 792286 www.filco.co.uk

Spring Cowbridge Feature

Get out and about in Cowbridge now Spring is here – IT'S THE THING TO DO!

King Fox opened recently with trusted brands such as Olymp, Santinelli Tailoring, Bruhl, John Smedley and Aquascutum.

Blaze Designs jewellery is a popular line in Pebble – and the new season's range is now in stock!

THE arrival of blue skies and the approach of Easter are a pretty good sign that Spring is here, and hopefully the cold, grey and damp days of Winter are on the wane.

Suddenly, you have the option of sitting outside with a cold beer or glass of wine, rather than heading indoors to get warm with a hot drink, and it is this change of season that always suits Cowbridge.

It is, above all else, a town to mooch about in.

Somewhere to take your time and relax, making sure you don't miss what's new or special – rather than rushing from A to B to get out of the cold.

What's new is always the question to ask in the town. It might be new businesses that have sprung up in recent months – or it might simply be, what's new in shops that you know and trust?

As Cowbridge is still keeping the chain stores at bay, it means that many businesses are run and staffed by locals – locals who make their own decision about new lines, rather than just unpacking what head office has decreed to be the hot thing this year.

Shops in Cowbridge have built up their own supply chains, and what's new this season is not being replicated in dozens of other outlets around south Wales.

GW St Clears offers everything to make a house into a home.

One of the joys of running your own business is backing your own judgement on what will be popular among your own customers.

It's fair to say that Cowbridge customers and shop owners have a more personal relationship than elsewhere in the retail malls or in the chain store world.

Alison Williams, in Pebble, is a good example. She is delighted that she is able to offer her customers the new jewellery range from Blaze Design – a Cowbridge company in fact.

Alison said: "Blaze is not a new name for us. We have stocked their products for some time now, but it is getting to the point where there is a real buzz, waiting for the Spring/Summer collection."

Key to the Blaze range is sterling silver, hand-made jewellery, using freshwater pearls, crystals and semi-precious stones.

Alison has the latest ranges from some other old favourites too, with Scandinavian cotton knitwear from Odd Molly, and fresh stock from Gant and Hatley.

Cowbridge continues to attract new businesses to the town. A pizza and pasta restaurant is on the way – as is an ice cream parlour by day, which will transform into a cocktail bar at night.

However, one new business that is up and running – since – November of last year – is ***King Fox, a menswear store run by Leila Thornton***.

For Leila, it is a case of keeping it in the family. Her grandfather bought the adjoining premises in 1958. At the time, it was a barber's, run by Victor Grubb.

In truth, he didn't know what to do with his new premises, and Leila's grandmother had a few choice words for him about that impulse buy!

However, after a few days, she decided to open a dress shop – Bettina's – and was a fixture in Cowbridge for many years.

She expanded, buying the adjoining premises, and it is from this shop that King Fox trades.

Leila said: "I didn't want to have very high end prices, but the quality is still there – with all garments made in the UK or in Europe.

Business has been good since King Fox opened in November. Trusted brands such as Olymp, Santinelli Tailoring, Bruhl, John Smedley and Aquascutum mean that customers can be assured of good quality – and Leila has her grandmother's genes when it comes to retailing!

Also on the **High Street is GW at St Clears** which has now been open for two-and-a-half years - so it can't be classed as new.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

Arthur John & Co

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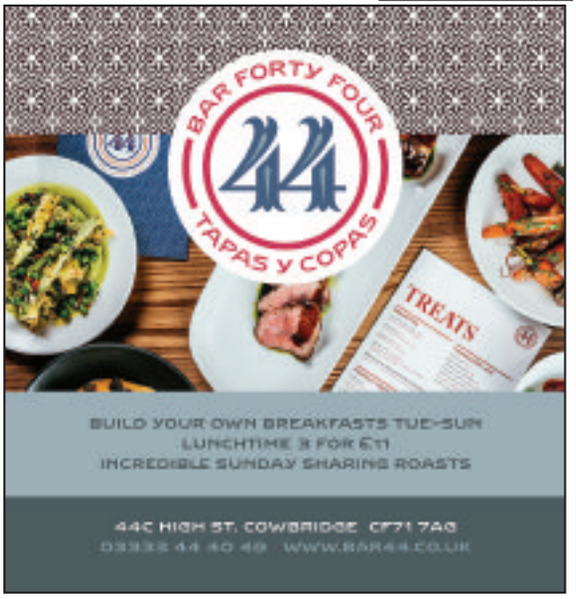

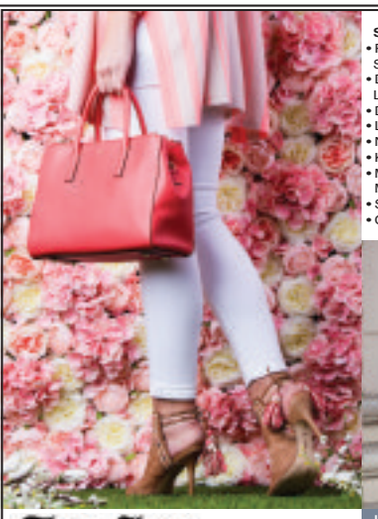

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ThePencilCaseCowbridge

Spring Cowbridge Feature

So many reasons to visit Cowbridge!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

However, it does come under the category of 'slow burner' because its aim is to give just a flavour of the company's showroom in west Wales, where they have built the business up over 40 years.

A company spokeswoman said: "For nearly 40 years, we have had the privilege of respectfully working and improving our clients' homes.

"Ever since we opened out lifestyle showroom in Cowbridge, we have been able to offer our product portfolio and services to the Vale and surrounding counties.

"We offer a turnkey installation service, where our dedicated team of tradespeople take care of absolutely everything from top to bottom, whether for a new kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, study, hallway or living room"

Find out more about their hassle-free services at www.gwofstclears.co.uk or telephone 01446 771581.

Of course, choosing somewhere to go for a day out isn't all about shopping, and Cowbridge is bubbling over with choice if you just want to take in pleasant surroundings, and then pause for a coffee, light lunch, bar meal or to eat out in style.

These days, a visit to the walled Physic Garden is a must. It's an object lesson on what can be achieved by a group of motivated volunteers who care about their town.

What was an overgrown garden – neglected for many years – is now a peaceful idyll that has a fascinating educational aspect as well.

The neighbouring Old Hall Gardens have been cared for by more volunteers, and further along, the livestock market is still active every Tuesday. On other days, it is very useful as a free parking area.

Kate Thomas and Holly Howells at Sylvia Williams Chemists.

At ***Sylvia Williams Chemists in the High Street, pharmacist Kate Thomas*** has just introduced three prestigious Continental skincare brands.

She said: "We want to make this pharmacy a centre of excellence for skincare."

The products are specialised and, as a result, staff have been given detailed training. Holly Howells is the shop's skincare expert, and she explained: "We have La Roche Posay and Vichy from France, and the Swiss company Mavala as well.

"La Roche Posay products are formulated to tackle rosacea, eczema, teenage acne and cracked skin, among others. They are conditions that cause a great deal of distress, and La Roche has been working with dermatologists in this field for many years.

"Vichy has a range of make up products and, in particular a foundation, Dermablend, that is designed to hide damaged skin and tattoos, and is very effective."

She continued: "Mavala specialises in creams that moisturise tired skin, and that rejuvenate wrinkles. It's another range that has a strong reputation."

The Pencil Case supplies Scouting and Guiding uniforms, too.

In Eastgate, ***Sally Stephenson runs the Pencil Case*** which supplies all things relating to writing – whether for business or pleasure.

It's a treasure trove for youngsters, although grown-ups are well catered for too.

Her Easter table – described by Sally as an alternative to an overload of chocolate, is packed with Easter-themed items, from bonnets to balloons, colouring and sticker books, and Easter cards in English and Welsh.

One product line – twako erasers – are so sought after that she is introducing a loyalty card. The distinctive designs cost just £1 each, and from Easter, 10 stamps on the card will mean the next one is free!

Some Cowbridge traders, of course, are not here every day. ***Glamorgan Lamb, based in Ystradowen***, expect their regular customers to be flocking to the Farmers' Market on Easter Saturday in Arthur John's Car Park.

John Davies, who runs Glamorgan Lamb, explained: "We have an established reputation as the first in Wales to have Spring lambs on sale.

"We plant a root crop in the autumn and when the lambs arrive in January, that diet of roots and mother's milk makes all the difference."

Elephant and Bun: artisanal deli heaven and right on your doorstep.

Glamorgan Lamb do not trade solely at the Farmers' market. They can be contacted on the telephone number shown on their advertisement in this feature.

On ***Cowbridge High Street, the Elephant & Bun*** delicatessen is gearing up for Easter with a new range of Welsh artisan beers and ciders that will make any family party go with a swing.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

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Spring Cowbridge

SPRING INTO COWBRIDGE!

Jon Ian will guarantee you're in the pink this season.

Fancy spinning a yarn? La Mercerie, in Old Mason's Yard, is the place to go.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32

And now is the time to order your quiches, cheeses, salads and cakes for such special events as wedding receptions, christenings, family reunions and farewells.

Don't forget the deli's great range of home made sausage rolls, plus hot-off-the-griddle Welsh cakes as sampled at No 10 Downing Street last month.

And Saturdays wouldn't be the same without Hay-on-Wye baker Alex Gooch's beautiful artisan breads and Nata's custard tarts and doughnuts; only available for sale in Cowbridge at the Elephant & Bun Deli.

Across the road from The Bun, is ***Jon Ian, run by Esther Hitchcock,***which has settled into new and larger premises.

Esther said: "The extra space means that we can display a much bigger selection of designer shoes at affordable prices.

"It's like walking into Spring, with all the colours on show.

"Remember, we have every type of footwear from waterproof boots to shoes and bags for every occasion."

Jean Tait runs La Mercerie, in Old Mason's Yard, and supplies all types of yarn and things connected with knitting.

Knitting is a pretty social thing, and a number of groups meet at Jean's shop to compare notes and enjoy a gossip while they knit.

In fact, in June, Jean is hoping to bring as many knitters as possible from around the area together for a charity event.

She said: "On Saturday, June 10, it will be 'worldwide knitting in public day' and we have decided to get together to support another charity event, organised by the Jo Cox Foundation.

"That charity is putting on community street parties, and we will be knitting bunting to help with the street party decorations."

Merger will take law firms to new heights

Left to right: Glamorgan Law's Richard Beech, JCP Solicitors' Hayley Davies, Glamorgan Law's Peter Davies and JCP Solicitors' Kevin O'Brien.

GLAMORGAN Law, based in The Pavilion on the main street in Cowbridge, is entering an exciting new phase, having announced a forthcoming merger with JCP Solicitors.

With offices across south Wales in Cardiff, Cowbridge, Pontypridd and Caerphilly, Glamorgan Law has a sound reputation for providing a comprehensive range of legal services, while JCP Solicitors is one of the most highly regarded legal businesses in south and west Wales, with established offices in Swansea, Carmarthen and throughout Pembrokeshire.

The coming together of the two businesses, on April 25, 2017, will see JCP Solicitors invest in Glamorgan Law's existing offices, with all partners and employees of Glamorgan Law currently based at those offices remaining within the merged company.

Glamorgan Law has eight directors and 50 additional members of staff, with Senior Partners Peter Davies and Richard Beech, who is currently based in Cowbridge, taking up business ownership in JCP.

The newly-merged law firm will have a turnover in excess of £10 million and it is projected that this merger will make it one of the top 200 law firms in the UK*.

**Projection based upon the criteria of the Lawyer Magazine's Top 200 list 2016.*

Police officers donate £2,000 to special care baby unit in Bridgend

Laura Sutherland, staff nurse, holding three-week-old Nate; PC Ceri Francis; DCI Dinlle Francis; Amanda Dyer, senior staff nurse; PC Rea David and Anthony Hopkins, father of newborn twins Cody and Conor.

OFFICERS and staff at a Bridgend police station have munched through a mound of chocolate and snacks to raise a staggering amount for a local cause.

Police Constables Rea David and Ceri Francis were recently able to hand over £2,000 to the Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) at the Princess of Wales Hospital, thanks to colleagues' support for the tuck shop they run at Bridgend Bridewell station.

The money was raised in just 12 months, and staff at the hospital unit plan to put it to good use buying a portable breast pump and equipment to furnish the family room.

PC Rea David said: "We chose the baby unit to benefit from the proceeds of this year's tuck shop because some of the officers and staff have had their own babies cared for at the SCBU, so they know first-hand the amazing work they do there.

"Myself, PC Francis and DCI Dinlle Francis recently visited the unit to hand over the money, and the team there were delighted.

"It was great for us to meet not only some of the team, but also some of the families who are currently benefiting from their amazing care.

"We'll now be looking to nominate another good cause to benefit from next year's snack breaks. Any non-profit organisations or charities who'd like to be considered should email me at rea.david@south-wales.pnn.police.uk"

Councillor to stand as an independent in local elections

SENIOR Town and former Vale councillor, Anthony Ernest, has confirmed that he is standing as an independent candidate in the Plymouth Ward of Penarth, in the forthcoming council elections for both the Vale and Penarth.

Coun Ernest has been a member of Penarth Town Council for many years, and has a record of election successes on the Vale Council where he was a cabinet member for a decade, holding various responsibilities which included council housing and public buildings, and more recently leisure, tourism and the arts.

Coun Ernest who was born in the Plymouth Ward ('South and West Penarth') said: "I have been asked to put my name forward for both councils, as we need strong leadership, considerable experience and a real commitment to each of these widely differing roles in Welsh local government, at this time.

"Having been a Vale and town councillor both in power as well as opposition has given me the confidence to once more take on these roles, which are essential in delivering quality services to the people of Penarth and beyond, and I look forward to that challenge once again."

GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

'Why not relocate waste bins on Friar's Point'

MY husband and I are regular walkers on Barry Island and have noticed a plethora of new waste bins near the beach hut area; plus we are amused by the nine we counted on top of the newly refurbished shelter, as usually there's not a soul on the top of the shelter and the bins are unused and pristine – as are the many benches.

It would be sensible to re-site some of these new bins and and put them where they are needed on Friar's Point, but it may have something to do with the fact the council bin truck can drive back and forth along the prom without anyone having to physically walk to empty them.

All the bins seem to be driven to, which is why there aren't many on the Point where lots of people are walking and it would be of great benefit to visitors.

ML Healey, Barry.

'More to pollution than smoke'

IS Coun Moore really so naive to believe that pollution is only caused by "smoke and fumes"?

("Don't spread untruths over new energy plant" – The GEM, March 30.) Perhaps he should look up asbestosis and pneumoconiosis (miner's lung) for a start.

Sarah Jones, Barry.

Friends and Neighbours join the cocktail set!

FRIENDS and Neighbours senior citizen group that meets at Beryl Road Pioneer Hall every month had its spring lunch at The Glamorgan Suite In Barry.

Around 40 members of the group enjoyed a tasty three-course lunch with a welcome cocktail on arrival. The tables were tastefully decorated and the venue was very comfortable.

The students made them very welcome and chatted to them while waiting for their meal. They enjoyed a starter of soup or chicken salad, which was followed by roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes and vegetables.

Dessert followed with Eton Mess with raspberry coulis. The students were very attentive to the members' needs and nothing was too much trouble.

For many of the members it was their first visit and they said how lovely the experience had been, and that they would go again.

A vote of thanks was given to the hospitality and catering students from Vale College which was well applauded by the members.

Members are now looking forward to their Easter party with Barry Male Voice Choir providing the entertainment.

Call Gay Fifield on 01446 400044 for further information.

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Family Notices

VENTON
Thomas

Sadly at home on 28th March 2017, Tom, aged 92 years. Dearly loved husband of Rona, much loved dad of Clive, Adrian and the late Kevin. Cherished grandfather and great grandfather, also a loved twin brother of Enid.

Tom will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service at St Helen's Roman Catholic Church on Tuesday, 11th April at 11am, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu, if so desired, for Dementia UK c/o the funeral Director.

DAVIES
Grace Shirley

Peacefully at home in Ogmore by Sea, on 24th March after a short illness, Shirley, beloved wife of the late Howard, much loved mum of Christine, mum-in-law of Gerald, and cherished nan to Rachael, Tom and Lorraine, their partners and her great grandchildren, Jack and our angel baby Ieuan.

Resting at JR & MF David Funeral Home, St Brides Major, until the cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 11am on Friday, 7th April.

Family flowers only please, donations, if wished, to MacMillan Nurses.

JONES
Geoffrey Peter

Peacefully at home after a brave fight and with his family present, Geoff, aged 67 years. Beloved husband of Julie, much loved dad of Angela, Simon and Siân. Loved step dad to Darren and Vincent, loved grandad to Oliver, Jamie and Imogen, loved brother of Ruth, Malcolm and families. Also loved by Julie's grandchildren Evan and Ruby.

Geoff will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium on Wednesday, 12th April at 1.15pm. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu, if so desired, for Cancer Research UK c/o the funeral director.

GOLDMAN
Myfanwy Ann

Sadly after a short illness bravely fought at Holme Tower on 31st March 2017, Myfanwy, aged 80 years. Devoted wife of Cyril, much loved sister of Yvonne and dear aunt to Lesley.

Myfanwy will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the private family service which takes place on Monday, 10th April.

LIOSATOS
Dimitri

Peacefully on 1st April at Springbank Nursing Home, Barry, Dimitri, aged 89 years, previously of Gaen Street, Barry. Dearly loved father of Alexandra, Jason and father-in-law of Rick and Louise. Cherished grandfather of Limony, Amelia and Willow.

Dimitri will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral on Thursday, 13 April, service in the chapel at 3pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry, 4pm.

JONES
Richard

The family wish to announce the sad passing of Richard on 1st April at the University Hospital of Wales. Richard was well known for his time at Barry College, a keen bowler at Romilly Bowls Club and for his love of dancing. A beloved husband to the late Jean and long time companion of the late Betty. A loving dad to Carol, Gail, Debbie and Stuart. Much loved father-in-law to Steve, Gary and Mary. An adored grampy to his five grandchildren and six great grandchildren

He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Richard is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until his service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium on Wednesday, 12th April 2017 at 11am. Family floral tributes only. Donations, gratefully appreciated, may be made at the service or via Richard's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk where you are also welcome to leave your personal messages and memories. All donations received to support Barry Dock RNLI & British Heart Foundation.

In Memory

GWILLIAM
Arthur John

Treasured memories of my darling husband Arthur, dearest dad of Judith, respected father-in-law of Steve and adored gramps of Abbie and Lucie.

Always in our hearts and thoughts.

Thank You

Thank you
Jo & Tony Meakin

We would like to thank our family and friends who attended our Golden Wedding Anniversary party on 31 March at St Athan Golf Club. It made our special day an extra special day. Also, many thanks for all the lovely presents give to us.

Birthdays

David Brinsdon

Happy 80th Birthday

on the 8th April 2017

Lots of love
Ann, Ian, Fay, Cristina, Jared & all your friends and family xxx

• 50 • 50 • 50 • 50 • 50 • 50 •

GUESS WHO'S 50!

Deborah Ann Gilbert

Lots of love on your special day, from Phil and the gang xxx

• 50 • 50 • 50 • 50 • 50 • 50 •

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Birthdays

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Happy Birthday

DARREN BAKER

on 9 April.

Lots of Love, Sue, Joe, Abi and all the family xxx

DARREN • DARREN • DARREN • DARREN • DARREN

Happbee Birthday

Gillian

from all your friends at The Gem

CLAY

Robin (Cass)

Happy 70th Birthday

Love from Pat, Sarah & Michael, Laura & Mark, Robert & Lizzie, & grandchildren Lauren, Kelsey, Olivia, Sam & William xxx

70

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Public Notice

NOTICE
Pursuant to s27 of the Trustee Act 1925.
Re MELVIN LEWIS PRICE deceased.

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the estate of the above named late of Ty Fry Cottage Llantrithyd Cowbridge CF71 7UB who died on the 6th October 2016 are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before two months and one day from the date of this publication after which date the estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have then had notice.

Rosemarie James, Executor, C/o Bridgend Wills & Estate Planning Ltd, The Old Post Office, 13 Ewenny Road, Bridgend. CF31 3HN.

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern, I Richard Hayward, do hereby give notice that I have applied to the Licensing Authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the grant of a premises licence at **The Esplanade, Penarth, CF64 3AS known as Crazy Cafe.**

The application is for:
Opening hours: Daily 08.00 - 23.00,
Supply of alcohol - on and off premises: Daily 08.00 - 23.00.

Any persons wishing to make representations to this application may do so in writing to: The Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU, or by email to licensing@valeof glamorgan.gov.uk not later than 28 days after the date of this notice. Representations received after this date will not be considered.

A copy of the application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make false statements in connection with this application. The maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

Signed: Richard Hayward
Date: 28.03.2017

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CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2017/00229/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition and re-instatement of rear stone boundary wall; construction of new 1.5-storey garage with accommodation over, plus rear driveway with 3 parking spaces; stripping of existing roof covering to main house and re-instatement of grade 1 natural slate
Location:/Lleoliad: 77, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Cowbridge

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/01389/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed alterations and extensions together with new seperate access across part of adjacent field;
Location:/Lleoliad: The Lodge, Castle Upon Alun, St Bride's Major
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2017/00222/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Replace external signage like or like including fascia sign, projecting sign, branch nameplate and branch opening hour signs
Location:/Lleoliad: HSBC, 61, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2017/00264/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition and re-instatement of rear stone boundary wall; construction of new 1.5-storey garage with accommodation over, plus rear driveway with 3 parking spaces; stripping of existing roof covering to main house and re-instatement of grade 1 natural slate
Location:/Lleoliad: 77, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2017/00084/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Change of Use from C3 to C2. Site to be used for residential care of children and adults with additional needs related to ASD, to include 5 self contained residential units and one shared residential unit
Location:/Lleoliad: Barns at West Aberthaw Farm, Lane - Jct B4265 to West Aberthaw Farm, West Aberthaw
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting West Aberthaw Farmhouse which is a Grade II Listed Building.

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2017/00169/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Single storey bedroom and ensuite extension
Location:/Lleoliad: The Walled Garden, Wenvoe
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting Former walled kitchen garden wall at Wenvoe Castle- W range' which is a Grade II Listed Building.

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2017/00260/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed residential development comprising 11 affordable dwellings along with associated parking, highway and ancillary works, including a new vehicular access/egress for Holm View Leisure Centre
Location:/Lleoliad: Land to the East of Holm View Leisure Centre, Skomer Road, Barry

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2017/00131/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of agricultural building
Location:/Lleoliad: Clark Farm, The Lawns, Cwrt yr Ala Road, Michaelston le Pit

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 6 April, 2017

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager,
Regeneration and Planning,
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

The Rhoose Lifeguards Nippers in action at Stillwater Championships

THE British Surf Lifesaving Stillwater Championships were held in Cardiff International Pool over the weekend of March 25/26.

We were lucky to have this event on our doorstep this year and we went with a strong team of 60.

During the two-day event the Nippers competed together as a team, all egging each other on and encouraging and cheering all the way.

The standard for this year was much higher than previous years and so all our Nippers did a great job, with many coming away with personal bests, some medals,and new British records were set!

For the boys Ethan Hole attained a silver in Manikin and a bronze in the Flipper Race. Well done Ethan.

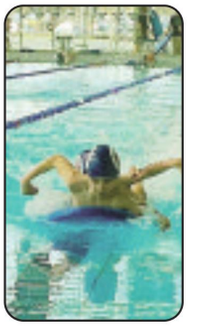
For the girls, Evie Wong broke the British record in the Manikin tow and then Connie Millar stormed in with two golds in the Flipper and Manikin race.

As if two gold weren't enough, she also set two new British records, an amazing achievement.

We are very pleased to have finished 10th out of 28 clubs and the third-best Welsh club.

We would also like to thank all those that helped over the two days with time keeping, moving the Manikins and boards, keeping the Nippers hydrated and fed and also watching to make sure they didn't escape to the fun pool too often!

VW



3-1 win keeps Barry Town United's title charge on right track

BARRY TOWN UNITED'S challenge for the Welsh League Division One title took another step forward at the weekend, as the championship chasers came from behind to win 3-1 against Ton Pentre at Ynys Park.

Pursuing their eighth consecutive Welsh League victory on the road, Barry's TJ Nagi would hit the crossbar midway through the first half, but it was the battling Bulldogs who drew first blood, as Phil Clarke shot across goal to beat goalkeeper Mike Lewis in the 26th minute.

Nevertheless, the match in the Rhondda would take a significant turn 10 minutes before half-time, when Ton's Liam Hutchinson was shown a red card for a foul at the edge of the area.

The resulting free-kick saw Barry's Curtis Watkins drill a low effort through the mud and into the bottom corner and just like that, the visitors found themselves level, with a man advantage to take into the second period.

As it would turn out, the extra man scenario would last merely a matter of minutes, with Barry forward James Dixon soon given his own marching orders for retaliating against goalscorer Clarke.

However, the Town would shrug off this setback in style, putting together the game's defining spell and all but securing the three points shortly after the hour mark.

First, Nagi worked well to set up Drew Fahiya, who showed great strength to control the ball while holding off a defender, before slotting into the bottom corner and giving Barry a 2-1 lead.

Then, goalscorer turned goal producer, as Fahiya turned his man and cut inside, feeding Barry captain James Saddler who fired his first goal of the season into the roof of the Ton Pentre net.

Closing the game out effectively, Barry's 3-1 victory helped them remain a full five points ahead of second-placed Goytre and six clear of third-placed Haverfordwest County, both of whom won on the weekend.

This Saturday (April 8) meanwhile sees the Town travel to Goytre United in a 2.30pm kick-off, following a recent switch that sees the reverse fixture moved to Jenner Park on Tuesday, April 18 (7.45pm).

Home fixtures with Risca United (on Saturday, April 15) and Ton Pentre (Saturday, April 29) and a testing trip to Cambrian & Clydach Vale (Saturday, April 22) complete the Jenner Park side's title run-in. **Finally, the club was saddened to learn this week of the passing of long-serving goalkeeper Trevor Nott.**

A popular figure in the Barry goal in the 1970s and 80s, Trevor made his debut at the similarly-named Bury Town in 1974, racking up 374 appearances in his years at Jenner Park and helping the team to Welsh League Division One and South Wales Senior Cup silverware.

With more than 100 clean sheets across his Town career, Nott was the club's Southern League player of the year in 1976 and featured in the 3-1 win over champions Worcester City the following May, a match that saw Worcester's season-long unbeaten run ended on its final day.

In his second spell with the club, Trevor was a key part of the famous FA Cup run of 1984, featuring in the famous first round match against Reading, after a dramatic second replay win over fierce rivals Merthyr secured their qualification.

A Barry player until 1987 and an important figure in the club's proud goalkeeping tradition, Trevor Nott's contributions to life at Jenner Park, both on and off the field, will live long in the memory.

AC

Penarth Hockey Club reach Welsh Trophy final

WITH three promotions already secured in the GoCrea8 League, Penarth Hockey Club continued to extend its season with a crushing victory in the semi-finals of the Welsh Trophy.

Having eased through the early-season qualifying competition in Swansea, the first XI found Bridgend standing between themselves and a second successive appearance in the Welsh Trophy final.

The obstacle, however, proved to be little more than a mirage as the Bears put on a masterclass at the National Hockey Centre.

Determined that the April 1 date would not make fools of them in an encounter they were always favoured to win, the Vale side quickly found top gear, with Bridgend unable to handle either the speed and intensity of their game.

Penarth should have gone ahead with minutes of the opening whistle, a Ben Croxall aerial being wasted by the unmarked forward, but the opening proved a portent of what was to come as the newly-crowned Conference North champions continued to display the sort of expansive hockey that had led them to back-to-back divisional titles.

Atoning for his early error on the bouncy Sophia Gardens pitch, Phil Lane not only opened the scoring, but also unlocked the floodgates that would see Bridgend quickly swamped by a glut of goals that left them trailing by five at the interval.

Chris Baker, Laith El-Khatib and Ben Croxall quickly put the game out of reach, before further strikes from Richard Baker, Andy Willemite and Joe Thomas either side of half-time eased Penarth's passage to the final.

Croxall added a second from the spot to complete an 8-0 rout, a scoreline which could have been greater had it not been for a fine display of shot-stopping by the Bridgend goalkeeper.

By contrast, shielded by a defensive cordon marshalled by captain Tom Haran, neither Penarth keeper had a serious save to make, with the Bears able to give both Adam Putt and Simon Comfort a run-out ahead of the final later this month.

Penarth will now take on Cardiff University in the Welsh Trophy final on Sunday, April 30 as they look to complete back-to-back league and cup doubles.

YOUTH NEWS

While Penarth's senior side continues to excel, the youngest members of the club showed that the future is also in safe hands by travelling to Swansea to take part in qualifying for the south Wales under-11 Cup.

In the main competition, arguably the two strongest teams on display met in the opening encounter as Penarth faced off against old rivals Whitchurch.

Typically, the game proved to be a very tight affair, with quality hockey being played thoughout. However, despite the Cubs' best efforts, Whitchurch held on to snatch a 1-0 win that would give them the edge for the rest of the afternoon.

Undeterred, Penarth moved on to what was, effectively, a 'must-win' game against a talented Bridgend team.

Rising to the challenge, the boys produced their best performance of the season, running out 3-0 winners to put one hand on a play-off place before taking on a hapless Fishguard side in their final group game.

The west Wales side came to the competition with a distinct lack of competitive games under their belt, and that showed as Penarth won 7-0 in an extremely one-sided game.

The victory ensured that Penarth progressed to the play-off to determine the last qualifier for the south Wales finals later in the month.

Finding themselves ranged against a Llanishen & Caerphilly side coming from the other side of the draw, the Cubs showed that their level of intensity had no been dimmed by the easy pickings against Fishguard and effectively sealed the game by scoring twice with less than two minutes on the clock.

Two more strikes followed before the final whistle to complete a comfortable 4-0 win and guarantee that they moved through to the next round.

Penarth also fielded a team in the reserve competition, and gave a good account of themselves despite having to play two back-to-back games with a bare seven players and a couple of eight-year olds making their competitive debuts.

Indeed, the side were unfortunate to only draw 0-0 with Gwent in their opening game, having created the better chances and defended strongly throughout, but their efforts ultimately counted against them as they moved onto a tougher game with Whitchurch.

Again, the young squad acquitted themselves brilliantly in the first half, remaining on level terms with their more experienced opposition, but a fourth consecutive half of hockey proved a bridge too far, as Whitchurch's freshness - and substitutes – ensured that they eventually ran out 2-0 winners.

The south Wales youth finals take place in Swansea on Saturday, April 22, with Penarth joining the hosts, Whitchurch and Gwent in the semi-final line-up.

While both the under-11 and first XI squads now have a handful of weeks to prepare for their respective finals, hockey continues for the Penarth club as the veterans side kicks off its summer season by travelling to Cwmbran for the first game in a 'home-and-home' with Gwent.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability.

When the regular season resumes, training will take place on Wednesdays at Stanwell School, with the juniors on the pitch between 6.15pm and 7.15pm and the seniors between 7pm and 8.15pm.

Anyone interested in joining the club at senior or youth level can contact club secretary Dave Stevens (d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk) for further information.

CL

Dinas Powys ladies' quest for title gets boost after victory

DINAS POWYS ladies faced a tough away game against a talented young Newport County ladies on Sunday in their quest for their first title.

On a very hot day the visitors started the brightest as Laura Murray fired two early shots wide.

Newport then settled down and came into the match as the youthful team showed plenty of enthusiasm and energy. Dinas struggled to get to grips with the game and the size of the pitch as they looked a shadow of their normal selves.

With 30 minutes on the clock Murray latched on to a through ball and cooly rounded the keeper to break the deadlock. Nao nearly added a brace as she fired two snap shots which went straight to the Newport keeper from five yards.

At the other end Kelly Tuck, Rachel Beare, Alex Allen and Alicia Cox had to be on their toes tracking runners and limiting the home teams chances.

At the start of the second half Demi Bounds thought she had increased the lead but fired over from five yards after Laura Lewis, Murray and Nao had created a fantastic opportunity for the pacey forward.

Taylor Page and Sophie Whittle entered the game and both were straight in the action.

Dinas started the second half much better and were looking to kill the game off early on. Murray rattled the bar before doubling the lead.

Gemma Crowley replaced Murray and the striker who has worked hard on her fitness showed Composure linking up with Nao and Whittle.

Jodi Bowles and Vicki Elison were the finals substitutes used. As the game went into the final third Dinas showed their steel with some solid defending.

Jones and Pattermore both experienced players held the middle well and Bowles injected some muscle.

Elison saved the day late on last week and again her last-ditch defending gave the visitors another clean sheet.

Naomi Wilson collected another clean sheet which is something the defence and Wilson pride themselves on. Dinas have only conceded 12 goals in 16 league games - this shows how organised this defence has become.

This was not a classic performance but the ladies put in a display showing togetherness and at this time of the season results are far more important.

LS

TENNIS TUESDAYS AT LOCAL CLUB!

LAST Tuesday was the 2017 launch of 'Tennis Tuesdays' at Barry Community Tennis Club, and despite the rain showers, spirits weren't dampened and the club welcomed returning ladies along with some newcomers to the weekly social coaching session that has proved a cornerstone of the adult coaching programme at the club since its inception two years ago.

Tennis Tuesdays is an LTA programme for women with some experience of playing tennis to have the opportunity to get together, get playing, and have fun with some structured but informal coaching tips to help them along. The emphasis is on lots of play and lots of fun. The launch was accompanied by cupcakes and prosecco, which alleviated the sogginess of the weather.

This weekly session, every Tuesday throughout the summer in Romilly Park has enabled the club to develop a ladies team which competes regularly all year round in the south Wales leagues, and has also contributed greatly to the growing social calendar of the club, with cinema trips and nights out.

The club also offers a men's social night every Wednesday at 6.30pm in Romilly Park, as well as adult beginners sessions at midday on Saturdays and adult social play at 2pm on Mondays, both in Romilly Park.

The coaching programme is provided by qualified coaches from Vale Tennis Academy, and to find out more about any aspect of the club or coaching programme for all ages and abilities please visit www.valetennisacademy.co.uk or www.barryctc.co.uk - new players always welcome.

Hunt racing in Ystradowen

WELSH hunt-racing enthusiasts will be flocking to Ystradowen in the beautiful Vale for the Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases on Sunday (April 9).

The first race the Hunt Members for which there are nine entries is at 2.p.m and the John Lovell National Men's Open Race over three miles and six furlongs is at 3.45pm.

Of the 14 down to face the starter Roger Willcox's Patricktom Boru who was beaten just a head by War Path at the Glamorgan a fortnight ago will be some peoples idea of the winner.

However, the 10-year-old bay gelding has also been entered in the Ladies' Open race for which there are a massive 20 entries.

Others of note in the Men's Open include ItchyMeI'MScratch, NorthGeorge, Dunraven Royal and, of course, the prolific Rosies Peacock.

Carmen Goldsworthy's recent Brecon winner Captain Camelot has been entered in the Ladies Open race and others here include Buck Mulligan, Hold Court and King Massini.

Keiron Price's recent course winner Ramble On should get backers off to a good start by beating Shes A Gangster and Really Unique in the Hunt Members and three other recent course winners Essteepee, Fraction Man and Ann Scott could line-up for the Restricted race for which there are 16 entries.

Only five entries have been received for the Open Maiden Race over two miles and six furlongs and Dunraven Doc has January Don, Mabassini, Ollies Boy and Stella Massini to beat.

There are 21 down to run in the Open Maiden Race and some racegoers will look no further than Padre Tito who was narrowly beaten by Essteepe last time. Charlie Breekie and Moreece are two others to bear in mind.

VALE RIDERS SUCCESS

Evan David and Byron Moorcroft, both from the Vale, rode winners last weekend.

The much travelled Evan was successful on Andrew Pennock's Mahlers Spirit in the Club Members' Race at West Norfolk and Byron Moorcroft riding Spencer Moon took the Intermediate Race at Clifton On Dunsmore.

BRIAN LEE

Vale Cricket Club opens new facilities

ON Saturday, April 1, the Vale Cricket Club held a grand opening of their new training facilities.

The new nets, sponsored by the Ford Garage in Bridgend, will serve as a crucial element of the club's training ahead of the upcoming season.

Gareth Andrews, chair of the Vale Cricket Club, is hoping that the facilities will help in the expansion of the club's membership, which currently includes two senior teams as well as 50 junior members between the ages of nine and 15.

The club is also looking to develop partnerships with schools in and around the area, thus encouraging further youngsters into the sport.

Attending the opening were Gary Pesticcio, managing director of Ford Bridgend, Peter Hybart, chief executive of Cricket Wales, Gareth Andrews, chair of the cricket club, Alun Cairns MP and Jane Hutt AM, as well as the club's members who will be enjoying the new facilities over the coming months.

Mr Cairns said of the occasion: "It was fantastic to see members of the club, of all generations, so happy that their training facilities are being upgraded.

"I have no doubt that the enhancement will not only please local cricket enthusiasts, but also encourage others to take up the sport. Best of luck to the club for the season ahead!"

The club's first fixture of the season will be on the April 15 against Brecon.

The Vale of Glamorgan Football League round-up

ONLY three games were played in the Vale this weekend after the overnight deluge saw numerous games postponed.

In the SWFA Intermediate Cup Semi Final, St Athan went into the last four of the competition with a 4-1 win over Nelson Cavaliers of the Taff Ely & Rhymney League.

Saints now go on to play SWFA Alliance League side Penydarren BC this coming Saturday. The game will be played at Rhydyfelin FC.

In the Premier Division in-form Rhoose took full advantage of being the only Prem game played by going top of the league with 7-0 demolition of Masons Moving Group.

Although teams below have games in hand, most notably league favourites Vale United who sit just three points behind Rhoose but with a huge six games in hand.

In Division One, second place Barry Belgrade's title challenge took a big hit as they were edged out 3-2 by Cogan. The result leaves leaders Barry Athletic B just one win away from claiming the Division One title.

After a programme of midweek games on Wednesday, on the weekend the games of the day in each division look like being Barry Athletic vs Cowbridge Town in the Premier League, Pumas vs Sully in Division One and BV vs Barry Albion in Division Two.

Also Barry Athletic B travel to play Cardiff Airport B in hope of gaining the one more victory to claim the Division One title.

HD

The Barry and District League tables and results

CRIB DIVISION 1:

League table: Liberals 160, Rhoose Social 159, Wyndham Cons 152, Moors Boys 146, West End 141, West End Runaways 141, Cadoxton Cons 136.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

League table: West End C 96, West End D 89, Sea View B 86, Allsorts 81, King William XII 79.5, Rhoosters 75, Rhoose Social C 70.5, Rugby Club 70.5, Barries Boys 70, Rhoose Social B 69.5, Slammers 69.5, Liberals C 62.5, Rhoose Social A 60, Cambrian Flyers 51, Liberals A 48.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

League table: Harbour B 90, Savoy A 88, Cadoxton Cons Z 68, Wyndham Cons A 57, Cadoxton Cons B 55, West End C 53, Penarth Cons A 48, Rhoose Social B 48, Penarth Cons B 37, Rhoose Social C 35, Services Social B 31.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

League table: Savoy B 72, Liberators 70, Wyndham Cons C 65, Market Street B 65, Harbour A 62, Cadoxton Cons A 61, Market Street C 54, West End B 47, Wyndham Cons D 43, West End A 41, Sully Sports A 40 (* = points deducted).

All league and cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk and on Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

Vale Resort's huge golfing investment

THE Vale Resort in south Wales has invested more than £400,000 in state-of-the-art golf course and greens equipment as the new golf season gets off with a swing.

The resort, home to two championship golf courses, has purchased 16 new high-tech John Deere cutters and mowers to enhance the condition of both the Wales National Golf Course and the Lake Golf Course. It is hoped the new equipment will give its 550-plus members and thousands of visitors, an even better golfing experience this year.

The resort's head green keeper John Borja said: "This state-of-the-art machinery will undoubtedly improve the condition of both courses and make a difference to the way the game is played on them.

"Our aim, every day, is to ensure our golf courses are presented to the highest standards possible," added Mr Borja. "With the excellent support and after care provided by the John Deere network and its local dealer Frank Sutton Ltd, we look forward to doing so for many years to come."

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KIA Sportage 1.7 CRDi 2 2WD 5dr, 58.9 MPG, £130 TAX, KIA HISTORY, White, BK62UNJ £9,995

BMW 3 SERIES 2.0 318d M Sport Touring 5dr (start/stop), IMMACULATE ONE OWNER 68MPG, Black, EK13FOJ £12,995

Mercedes-Benz A Class 1.6 A200 AMG Sport 7G-DCT 5dr, 14,000 MILES FSH NAV LEATHER, Red, LO62SKJ £16,495

BMW 3 SERIES 2.0 320d EfficientDynamics Business Edition Touring 5dr (start/stop), ONLY ONE OWNER : £30 ROAD TAX, 64,000 miles, Metallic White, GY63KFV £13,495

Infiniti FX 3.0 TD GT 5dr, NAVIGATION, QUILTED LEATHER, FSH, Black, RX13DLJ £14,995

Mercedes-Benz C Class 2.1 C220 CDI SE (Executive Pack) 4dr NAVIGATION FULL LEATHER £20TX, 62,000 miles, Red £11,495

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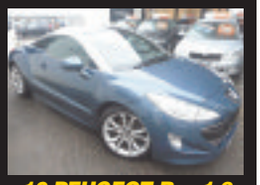

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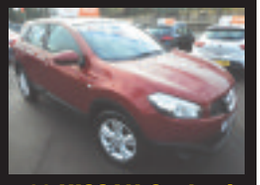

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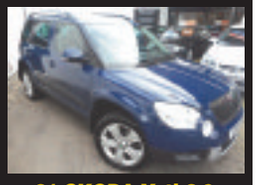

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12 FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Zetec 5-Dr In black, 76,000 mile diesel at **£4,995**

61 RENAULT Clio 1.6 GT Line VVTi Automatic In blue, 16,000 miles, with sat-nav ....**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995**

09 VAUXHALL Insignia 2.0 CDTi (130) SE 5-Dr In silver, 83,000 miles, diesel hatch **£4,995**

09 FORD Fiesta 1.6 TDCi Zetec 'S' In silver, low mileage, diesel at **£4,995**

58 NISSAN Qashqai 1.5 DCi Acenta In met black, 84,000 mile diesel at **£4,995**

10 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Edge 3-Dr In white, 30,000 miles, 1 owner **£4,795**

11 MAZDA 2 Sport 1.5 5-Dr In spirited green, 74,000 miles, very nice throughout ....**REDUCED BY £300 TO £4,695**

58 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.9 TDi (105) 5-Dr Match In met grey, 70,000 miles, diesel **£4,695**

58 VOLKSWAGEN Passat 2.0 HDi Sport In black, 85,000 miles, very nice diesel at **£4,695**

60 VAUXHALL Astra 1.7 Diesel Exclusive 5-Dr In silver, 81,000 miles **£4,495**

08 VOLKSWAGEN Eos 2.0 Convertible In black, 79,000 miles, 4 seater with solid roof **£4,295**

60 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Ecoflex Energy 3-Dr In red, 52,000 miles, one owner **£3,995**

60 CITROEN C1 VTR+ 5-Dr In red, 46,000 miles, low insurance and road tax **£3,995**

59 MAZDA 3 Sport 2.0 5-dr In black, sat-nav a/c etc, fantastic value **£3,995**

09 SEAT Ibiza 1.2S 3-Dr In nayara blue, 55,000 miles, low insurance....**£3,995**

56 MINI One Convertible In silver, 85,000 miles with pepper pack, a/c, heated seats etc **£3,995**

58 TOTOYA Yaris 1.3 TR 5-Dr In red, 60,000 miles, very nice example **£3,795**

11 RENAULT Clio 1.5 Diesel Expression 3-Dr In met-blue, 53,000 miles, £20 road tax **£3,695**

10 HYUNDAI i10 Comfort 1.2 5-Dr In silver, 57,000 miles, £30 road tax **£3,495**

06 SAAB 93 Linear 2.0 Convertible (150) In black with cream leather, 66,000 miles....**£3,495**

57 RENAULT Megane 1.5 DCi Dynamique 5-Dr In silver, 49,000 miles, diesel hatch....**£2,695**

06 SUZUKI Swift 1.5 GLX 5-Dr In electric blue, 79,000 mile hatch at **£2,695**

62 CITROEN DS3 D Sport Plus 1.6 THP
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Prizes supplied by sponsors Glamorgan Law of Cowbridge with Geraint Davies, Tosh Taylor and captain Ray Thomas.

Dai conquers all-comers at Ashburnham

ASHBURNHAM Golf Club, an exceptional true links golf course situated overlooking the Lougher estuary towards the Gower peninsular proved a very welcoming venue last Thursday for members of The Glamorgan Farmers Golf Society for their monthly meeting generously sponsored by Cowbridge-based solicitors Glamorgan Law.

Currently ranked as the fifth best course in Wales and which over the years has hosted many prestigious professional and amateur championships this favourite Welsh course of Harry Vardon, the six-times winner of the British Open Championship, was in exceptionally good condition although the many bunkers and narrow fairways proved quite an obstacle for some of the competitors.

Society members were particularly pleased to welcome back a resplendent David Harris following his recent 'make-over' and even more pleased when he took the prize for being nearest the pin on the difficult par-3 13th hole.

Credit must be given to overall winner Dai John who played quite solidly from tee to green to return a winning score of 34 stableford points to collect the Walker Cup from sponsor's representative Mr Tosh Taylor.

Runner-up with 33 points was David Williams followed by Mark Rees and Bryan Owen who also scored 33 points.

Nearest the pin on the Watts & Morgan sponsored par 3-holes together with David Harris were Julian Golunski, Martyn Edward's and Julian Kelly who was also successful in winning the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge sponsored prize for hitting the longest drive down the selected hole.

Society president Geraint Davies returned home with the Premier Turf sponsored bottle of whisky when correctly guessing 29 balls would remain in the adjoining county of Dyfed.

This resulted in £80 being raised for Tenovus Closest to Home Charity.

Sincere thanks to the day's sponsor Glamorgan Law Solicitors of Cowbridge for supplying the high quality prizes.

The next meeting of the society is scheduled for Thursday, April 27, when members will be paying their first visit to The Parc Golf club situated between Newport and Cardiff to compete for the NFU Mutual Trophy kindly sponsored by Kelly, Harris and Conlon.

T.McC

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Good week for Barry chess club!

THIS has been a good week for the Barry Chess Club with three of our teams in action. We earned two wins and a draw.

The most significant result came on Thursday. At 3pm the Camelots team captain was asked who is in the team for tonight, to which he answered what team? He had overlooked the fact that the Camelots were due to play the Cardiff AJs.

There were some frantic phone calls to find five available players, and the team arrived at the Cardiff YMCA to find no-one knew how to adjust the air conditioning!

This left us playing in sauna like conditions. The boards were so close to one another it was almost a case of breathing in rotation.

Tom Cooke won on time, and this was followed by a victory by Stephen Bonutto and with a further two draws we won 3-2.

We sit in fifth place having earned the magic number of 40.5 points. As St John's College have picked up a penalty we know we have avoided relegation and we still have three games to play.

In Division One, the Bosons took 3.5 points from their home match against the Cardiff Bishops.

There were wins for Steve Cunliffe and Matthew Parry with the other three boards being drawn.

The Bosons remain in fourth place knowing that to avoid relegation they only need a maximum of 2.5 points from their remaining two games.

In Division Three the Quarks travelled to Caerphilly to play the Rooks.

We managed to return home having shared the spoils, John Ryles and Sam White on the bottom boards winning their matches and Stephen Bonutto on board one getting a draw. We remain in fifth place.

The only thing settled in this division is that the Pontypridd Phoenix will be promoted. Currently in second place are the Cardiff Dragons but they will pick up a penalty regarding the nominated players' game requirement at the end of the season - the actual amount cannot be quantified yet but it will be a minimum of two points.

The promotion and relegation positions may become clearer this week as there are four league games being played. However Nelson have two games still to be rearranged so they may be in a false position.

The Quarks may need 4.5 points to stay up but they have three games to play.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PJ

Barry Ladies end an excellent season with convincing win

ON a sunny day in Barry, Jenner Park was the perfect setting for the first team's final game in what has been a solid season.

Penybont lined up with a few new and familiar faces having made some recent signings since the teams last met. Having drawn 3-3 with league leaders Caldicot just days earlier, they looked sure to give Barry a hard contested, tight game.

With BTU at full strength for the Seconds v Thirds clash, it was the home side that started the brighter, playing some lovely flowing football on the slick Jenner Park surface.

A couple of early corners were cleared by the resilient Bridgend outfit. With 10 minutes on the clock, captain Stevie Cook whipped in a lovely corner for the lively Naomi Coulson to find the back of the net to give Barry an early confidence boost.

More quality football allowed goal machine Luca Laky to break through and put the hosts 2-0 up. Barry were keeping the ball well, and making it extremely difficult for the away side to get a foothold in the game.

Tracey White, Meg Bailey and captain Cook pulled the strings and it was another great ball from Cook that set Ellen Phillips through, and she finished with aplomb in the top right hand corner.

The half time score was 3-0 to Barry.

The second half produced very much of the same, and Barry looked very comfortable against a decent outfit that had only lost two league games all season.

Goalkeeper Megan Davies looked as reliable as ever and was destined to add another clean sheet. Emma Thompson, Emily Mortimore and Shanice Donovan looked solid and assured.

Ellie Drew and Coulson were constantly giving the Penybont full backs a torrid time with some superb energy and end product continuing the creativity at Jenner Park.

Strikers Phillips and Laky both added a second goal each, before Cook then completed the rout by scoring a penalty with the last kick of the game, the final score 6-0.

BTU finished the season second, and two points behind champions Caldicot. It's been a very good season for the senior side. The team will continue training throughout the summer, with plenty of friendlies lined up.

Trials for the first and development team are being held on Sunday, July 2 at Jenner Park from 10am-1pm; all players welcome.

***Squad**: Megan Davies, Emma Thompson, Ellie Drew, Tracey White, Shanice Donovan, Emily Mortimore, Naomi Coulson, Meg Bailey, Luca Laky, Stevie Cook (c); Ellen Phillips, Hannah Moger, Emily Hill.*

Trainer Tim gets a Glimpse of Gold!

GLIMPSE OF GOLD, trained by Tim Vaughan at Aberthin landed the opening BetFred Handicap Hurdle at Uttoxeter last Saturday.

Ridden by 3lb claiming jockey Alan Johns, *Glimpse Of Gold*, which went off the 9-4 favourite in a field of 10, won by one-and-three-quarter lengths from the top-weighted *Edward Elgar*, partnered by Pembrokeshire's Sean Bowen.

BRIAN LEE

International netballer shows support at Vale tournament

Gwenfo Primary School ran out winners on the day, and were joined by five other Vale schools at the regional finals.

MORE than 180 primary schoolchildren from Vale schools competed in a tournament attended by international netballer Bethan Dyke.

Miss Dyke started playing netball from the age of eight, and watched on from the side-lines at RAF St Athan as young pupils from 18 Vale primary schools competed for the right to attend the regional finals in Cardiff.

Nine volunteer umpires from local secondary schools oversaw over 50 closely-contested matches between rival schools.

Six of the 18 teams would compete in the regional finals on March 30.

Gwenfo ran out as victors, with St David's second, and Cogan finishing third. The other teams to make up the top six were Cadoxton, Bro Morgannwg, and Llangan.

The event was organised by the Vale of Glamorgan Council's sport and play development team, with one council officer commenting: "It was great to see so many schools involved with this event, and the range of abilities competing. All pupils put in a lot of effort, including the volunteer umpires."

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Cowbridge hold out for home victory

LAST Saturday, Cowbridge entertained Caerau Ely on a sunny afternoon at the Athletic Field.

The visitors made the most of the fine weather, with their forwards and backs inter-passing well and scoring a well-worked try after just two minutes for a seven-point lead.

The home side started to come back into the game and quick ruck ball following a good break by outside half Alex Guard, saw wing James Phillips cross in the corner, but full back Ben Wright was unable to tie the scores with the conversion.

The rest of the half was a fast and furious affair with good intent from both sides but too many mistakes for either to fully capitalise.

It was the visitors who created the better chances with their second row knocking on with the line at his mercy on the 17-minute mark. Then after 30 minutes, a superb covering tackle from Wright saved Cowbridge following a great cross kick that exposed them out wide.

Cowbridge scored next following a good line out take and drive by Kieron David which saw Caerau infringe and Wright slotted the penalty over from 30 metres for a half-time lead of 8-7.

Cowbridge started the second half well and a clean break by Richie Howson was followed by quick ruck ball taken on by Sam Richards who fed inside for Wright to score under the posts, before adding the conversion.

Further infringements and foul play saw some long lectures from the referee but strangely no cards being issued.

Cowbridge scored again on 51 minutes with some good turnover ball won by the forwards and a great break by Guard, who crossed under the posts with Wright converting.

The visitors responded with some good forward drives by their impressive No 8, who was stopped just short of the line when a try seemed inevitable.

Caerau did score next on 62 minutes to keep them in the game at 22-14 with one of their backs racing over when most of the other players were involved in a scuffle.

Cowbridge were later reduced to 14 men following a yellow card and a resurgent Caerau scored again following a clean break by their centre, who fed support inside to make it 22-21 with 74 minutes gone.

A tense finish saw the Cowbridge defence stand up to the test and they forced a penalty that Wright slotted over with three minutes of injury time already played.

Caerau did not give up however and continued to push for the remaining tense two minutes of injury time but Cowbridge held on for a well-earned 25-21 victory.

This Saturday is the much anticipated Llantwit Major game at the Athletic Field. Following the Cowbridge victory at Llantwit earlier in the season, they will no doubt be looking for revenge so we can look forward to another stirring encounter.

The match is being sponsored by C.S.Boxall Ltd who will be hosting the pre-match lunch in the club house, which is already sold out, so get down early for what should be a great afternoon.

GT/RV/RK

Try fest as Llantwit Major beat Wattstown

A large crowd swelled by the fine weather were treated to a great game of attacking rugby with eight tries scored as Llantwit beat Wattstown from the Rhondda Valley 33-23 in this third versus fourth league fixture at the Recreation Ground.

Llantwit who have been guilty of being slow out of the blocks on many occasions this season were quickly into their stride as, virtually from the kick off, they had their first score.

Playing towards the school end they got into some dominant field position and by first taking the Wattstown defence across the field before quickly switching the attack back where open side flanker Dan Bawden found himself in acres of space and charged towards the try line.

He then offloaded to Josh Austin who had a two-on-one with the defensive fullback and coolly drew the opponent before releasing veteran wing David Liscombe to finish off a fine try which Austin then followed it up with a touchline conversion.

The home side then spoiled their solid start by allowing Wattstown back into the game, firstly by conceding a penalty and then a converted try as the visitors used a good driving maul from a line-out to release their hard running centres who exposed some weak defence in the backline to go over at the clubhouse end.

However the Llantonians were soon back down at the school end hunting for another try as several players took turns to get over the try line before centre Wise Vakacegu took it upon himself to scramble over, the try was again converted by Austin.

However, the visitors soon replied themselves with another penalty. Llantwit, though, had the last word before the break as replacement number eight rob Carter charged over for an unconverted try, the first half ending at 19-13.

The second half soon saw Llantwit start using their three quarters as a lovely set piece move put Dawes in space. He kicked ahead and appeared sure to regather, but he was cruelly denied as a late tackle brought him down, causing the offender to receive 10 minutes in the bin.

Llantwit soon took advantage of their numerical supremacy by spreading the ball wide every time they had opportunity and were rewarded with a further two tries either side of a Wattstown penalty.

The first try saw Austin break the defence and bumped off a covering tackle to release Vakacegu for his second try as he raced away to score in the top corner.

The second was built up by another break, this time from inside their own half, with a succession of passes between the three-quarters again put Vakacegu in space but this time the covering defence were wise to his pace and hauled him down yards from the line, only to see him pop up a pass which second row Shaun Shea grabbed hold of and cantered over the line, showing great fitness and support play.

His celebration was cut short as his surge for the line had caused a hamstring pull and he was soon substituted.

With the game in control it was naturally time for Llantwit to implode as they had a yellow card themselves as Vakacegu blotted his otherwise-impressive performance through a deliberate knock on.

This allowed the visitors to claw themselves back into the game and they crossed again for a converted try from another driving maul. This led to a nervy last 15 minutes but Llantwit admirably defended their lead and held out with some good scrummaging and plenty of big hits being put in across the park, with both wingers Liscombe and Tinus Coetzer to the fore in these exchanges.

Another matter that unfortunately needs addressing from the match is the increasing amount of abuse the referee was receiving from the home supporters during the game, and yes the sizeable Wattstown supporters were just as vocal, but Llantwit need to get their own house in order.

The rugby club has a policy of respecting opponents and officials at all times and will not tolerate such misbehaviour from either players, coaching staff or supporters.

The official has a difficult enough task as it is, without being constantly receiving verbal abuse from the sidelines and in doing so spectators are not supporting the team.

Hopefully this will be the end of incidents of this nature, otherwise the club will look at taking further action against offenders.

Returning to the action upon the field this was another good performance by the Llantonians who are clearly enjoying their rugby as the grounds harden.

Next up they take the long trip across Llandow as they take on Cowbridge, and that fixture needs no further explanation. Kick off is at 2.30pm.

The team bus will be leaving the clubhouse at 12.30pm. If any supporters would like to travel with the team then they are warmly welcome, to book a place please contact Michael Edwards on 07747 706387.

AH

COWBRIDGE DARTS LEAGUE ROUND-UP

ON Tuesday, March 28 the Men's Singles knockout competition was played at Llanharry Working-men's Club.

This was a full evening of darts. The competition had a record 54 entries, which on the evening needed to be reduced to just two players.

This required the completion of 59 dart matches. The two successful players were last year finals winner Paul Butcher (Edmondes B) who this year will play Steve Simmonite (Edmondes A).

Steve Simmonite (Edmondes A) won his semi-final by defeating Lee Davies (Llanharry) 2-0. In the other semi-final, Paul Butcher (Edmondes B) overcame a very strong challenge by Dan Greenall (Edmondes C) winning 2-1.

Notable individual performances were Steve Simmonite (Edmondes A) hitting a 101 three-dart-out (this is Steve's second 100 or high out) and Lee Jones (Highwayman Inn) hitting a 180.

Present league standings remain unchanged, and after 21 weeks are: Edmondes B (133 points), Highwayman Inn (117), Six Bells Inn (116), Llanharry (107), Edmondes C (101), Edmondes A (99), Farmers Arms (86), Hairy Farmers (84), Victoria Inn (82) and Red Lion (20).

Next week (Tuesday, April 11) another full programme of league matches is scheduled. The Edmondes B hosts the Six Bells Inn, the Hairy Farmers hosts the Red Lion, the Edmondes C hosts the Farmers Arms, Llanharry hosts the Edmondes A and the Victoria Inn hosts the Highwayman Inn.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are always welcome.

For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Penllyn Bridge Club

THURSDAY, March 2 (20 pairs):

1st John Lord & Jo Ilsley 60.86%, 2nd David & Marian Stephenson 60.61%, 3rd Helen & Mike Ruttley 59.6%%.

Thursday, March 9 (18 pairs): 1st Judith & Colin Nunn 57.95%, 2nd John Lord & Jo Ilsley 57.1%, joint 3rd Wayne Stephens & Mary Wallis and Vicky Long & Sandra Collin 56.25%.

Thursday, March 16 (18 pairs): 1st Marian East & Barbara Easterbrook 63.64%, 2nd Helen & Mike Ruttley 61.65% 3rd David & Marian Stephenson 59.09%.

Thursday, March 23 (18 pairs): 1st Judith & Colin Nunn 60.51%, 2nd Brian Tucker & Mike Baron 59.09%, 3rd Allan Evans & Keith Price 57.67%.

Thursday, March 30 (17 pairs, Robert Brown Cup): Joint 1st Brian Tucker & Mike Baron and Rita Williams & Gill Wybrow 63.21%, 3rd Marian East & Barbara Easterbrook 59.64%.

CN

Llantwit Major & District Darts League update

THE Llantwit Major and District Darts League season entered its 25th week with the highlights being:

Steve Price 180, Tanya Daw 180, Gary Rendall 177, birthday boy Mike Gray 180, 87 and 70 out, Mark Bush 106 out, Phil Evans 129 out and Matt Thomas 21 dart leg.

In the penultimate 'A' League fixtures the Fox & Hounds beat the Wenvoe Arms 8-3 to make them favourites for third place.

In the 'C' League fourth-placed Lamb 'C2' beat the runaway leaders Lamb 'C1' 6-5 with the Shoes and Boverton Castle putting in fine performances to keep the race for the runners-up position as close as ever with two games to go.

The gents finals night takes place on Thursday, April 6 at the Rugby Club with the draw for the order of play at 7.45pm with the first match starting at 8pm.

The ladies finals night took place on March 30 - congratulations to all the competition winners and commiserations to the runners-up, as everybody contributed to a compelling and enjoyable night of darts.

Singles winner: Tanya Daw (RC), runner-up: Julie Cheal (SSA); pairs winners: Becky/Laura (GC), runners-up: Julie/Gaynor (SSA); three's winners: Julie/Gaynor/Lyn (SSA), runners-up: Jean/Beth/Chick (L & F); mixed pairs winners: Beaver/Tanya (RC), runners-up: Martin/Gaynor (SSA); Eddie Meredith winners: Wenvoe Arms 'A', runners-up: Kings Head 'A1'.

'C' League table: Lamb and Flag 'C1' 186, Boverton Castle 165, Shoes St Athan 165, Lamb and Flag 'C2' 162, Wenvoe Arms 149, Rugby Club 144, Kings Head 'C2' 142, Tudor Tavern 'C2' 114, Kings Head 'C1' 80, Tudor Tavern 'C1' 57.

'A' League table: champions Kings Head 'A1' 221, runners-up Wenvoe Arms 192, Fox and Hounds 169, Rugby Club 'A2' 164, Shoes St Athan 155, Golden Cups 153, Shoes Peterston 140, Four Bells 129, Lamb and Flag 129, Rugby Club 'A1' 112, Kings Head 'A2' 97, Tudor Tavern 97, Blacksmith Arms 88, Rugby Club 'A3' 79.

DMC

Local children enjoy some tennis action!

A fantastic morning was had by all at the Llantwit Major Tennis Club last Saturday.

More than 30 local children of primary school age attended the free tennis festival which was put on by the Vale Tennis Academy to encourage kids to get involved in tennis.

It was a great start to the season at the Llantwit Major Tennis Club, which has been growing steadily since it re-opened last year.

New coaching sessions including, beginners sessions for both adults and children as well as adult cardio tennis, parents and tots sessions and greens and teens coaching all start after Easter.

For more details go to valetennisacademy.co.uk or email info@valetennisacademy.co.uk or call 07909 987359.

On Saturday, April 8, 2pm-4pm, there is a rescheduled mixed doubles fun day. Join us for some mixed doubles fun; you don't need a partner because pairs will be drawn out of a hat.

If you are interested in joining Llantwit Major Tennis Club or would like more information about our coaching sessions for children and adults go to https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/LlantwitMajorTennisClub. **VS**

Bowls Club's open day

LLANTWIT MAJOR Bowls Club is holding its opening day this Saturday, April 8, at 2pm.

It is a chance for the members to get set for the new season. There will be the opening spider and weather permitting the chance of an informal roll-up.

Anyone interested in the game of bowls can come along and see what the club has to offer and meet the members.

The green will be open until the end of September every day from 2pm. It is open to members of the public of any age who can hire a rink and have a go.

Bowls are available for use, as is friendly guidance for the absolute beginner.

GS